

Yamato Nadeshiko, Koibana no Gotoku

Arc 1: Yamato Nadeshiko, Secret

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Prologue: Even if it means going against the world

(Side: Yamato Takeru)

Humans are willing to do anything for the person they love. Love makes people blind and drives them mad.

They may even be willing to make an enemy of the world for their beloved one.

"Even if we are going against the world, I believe love is the only thing that can carry us through"

The girl muttered earnestly while looking at me.

"Going against, the world?"

"Yes, I believe there will be lots of hardships waiting for us in the future. It's sad, but I cannot imagine a future filled with understanding and blessings from other people"

Showing a bittersweet smile, the girl whispered.

Obstacles are a part of romances and the wall we would have to overcome is too high.

"Still, I can make an enemy of the world if it's for the sake of love. I am prepared for that. Which is why I am asking of you... Will you join me together on this path? Will you love me too?"

The girl held out her hand gently. Her hand, her slim fingers touched me.

"I won't regret it if I'm together with you"

I grasped the hand she held out tightly.

I really wanted to say that I was prepared for it.

I love her.

I loved her more than anyone else.

But I—

"Unfortunately I lack the courage to make an enemy of the world"

I denied her words while smiling bitterly.

... As I just said, I did not have the courage.

I did not have the same strong determination as the girl to step forward.

That's why I cruelly tried to pass her honest feelings as a joke.

"... Is that so"

She looked down regrettably.

"Well, that is so like you Nii-san. Having said that, I won't give up. I will work hard until the day you will reciprocate my feelings.

Always the optimistic one.

Seeing her like this... I fell even more in love with her.

"I will offer everything for love, even if turning the world against me—"

Will I someday manage to muster up the courage?

My name is Yamato Takeru, a splendid joking material.

It's a name which always makes people laugh when meeting people for the first time. I really wish they would stop with the blank faces every single time I present myself.

Such names are only suited in the worlds of cartoons and movies.

I cannot possibly fathom the parent generation who thinks writing foreign words with kanji are cool or even cute.

I question whether the parents who give their child such flashy names are honestly thinking of how the child will be associated with it for the rest of his or her life.

Such a child, me, is currently living the ordinary fulfilled rosy school life.

I have good friends and even a girl I am interested in.

The tranquil ordinary days without any dissatisfactions.

The following happened at the beginning of spring, when time beckons the start of a new semester.

Looking out of the windows, the pretty cherry blossoms were dancing in the wind scattering everywhere.

You could say it was a standard spectacle for this season.

Everyone would believe spring was here when seeing the cherry blossoms.

When the spring and its gently climate arrived, I entered the 2nd year of High School.

The 4th period came peacefully to an end with the maths.

I was about to leave my seat to eat lunch.

As many times in the past I went to the school cafeteria to eat lunch.

"... Ah"

A girl from one of the classes below entered the classroom alone.

From the way the long black hair was fluttering, I knew who the girl was.

"Who is that? She is such a beautiful girl! You think she's a freshman?"

"You don't know? She is Yamato-kun's—"

Everyone glanced at me while I lightly raised my hand.

"—Takeru Nii-san!"

Spotting me, a florid smile appeared on her face.

Long jet-black hair in addition to her pretty features.

While slender, her chest was pretty big. Her figure can be said to be pretty good.

Giving off a clean and elegant impressions, she captured the attention of everyone.

Are you perhaps familiar with the word "Yamato Nadeshiko"?

If you look for the word in the dictionary, you will find that it's a simile comparing a Japanese woman's beauty with the Dianthus flower.

A graceful Japanese beauty. It's even said that they are an endangered species in Japan today.

However, that word feels even more familiar to me.

Yamato Nadeshiko, she is my little sister.

Her given name is Nadeshiko. When combined with her surname Yamato, it becomes Yamato Nadeshiko.

... this can also be considered a flashy name right?

What can I say... my parents' naming senses are probably far-removed from the rest of the world.

They should at least have considered the awkward atmosphere every time every time the children introduced themselves.

I was still good though, but every time Nadeshiko writes down her name, it's followed by "Eh?".

It's no wonder everyone thinks it's a joke at first whenever she writes down "Yamato Nadeshiko" in the name column.

However, it seems the person herself likes her name.

That is why, even though very puzzling, my little sister's name is Yamato Nadeshiko.

"Nadeshiko, you didn't have to go to my classroom since I would be waiting for you in the cafeteria anyway"

"It's alright, I couldn't hold back my desire to meet you, Nii-san"

"...Is that so. You sure know what to say to make me happy"

I usually spent my lunch time with my little sister.

While it felt like siblings in the rest of the world was on bad terms with each other, we were different.

Whenever we did something in the past, we were always together.

The image of a sister yearning for her brother is splendidly done.

The common experience of fighting with my cheeky sister is some of the

things I have never experienced.

Also, since my little sister is a pretty girl, people have been envious of me.

"Yamato Nadeshiko. Yamato's rumoured little sister is as lovely as her name implies"

My best friend nearby, Satake Yoshinobu, praised her.

She returned with a "Thank you very much" and continued: "However, the name has also given me a lot of difficulties. Though I have been made fun of due to the name, it was thanks to Nii-san that began liking my name"

"Me? Did you say something?"

"Yes, you did tell me this—"

She then followed with:

"Did you know this? That the Dianthus means pure or sweet love in the flower language? Both fits you perfectly. As the name reveals the person, you are indeed just like the very thing itself. I think it's a name that suits you"

The same words I told her in the past.

... To be able to repeat what I said in the past is, in a way, quite amazing.

I still have some memories of it somehow. Though they are faint memories.

Did it happen when I was in 5th grade in elementary school or?

Oh yes, I was looking at an illustrated encyclopedia of flowers in the library. When I discovered the meaning of her name, I just had to tell her.

... It makes me embarrassed just reminiscing about it.

"Thanks to his words, I started liking my name"

The smiling Nadeshiko is very cute.

She has become a lovely girl worthy of that the name Yamato Nadeshiko, not losing to it at all.

"Wait a minute Yamato! Your little sister is talking a bit too much isn't she?"

"Stop it alright Satake? I am aware of it. ... Well, that one way of speaking of it, in way"

I smile bitterly while getting embarrassed.

"Nii-san has truly been a fantastic person. For me, everything regarding my brother has been a very important memory to me no matter how trivial it might seem"

Satake then asked jokingly: "You guys have actually done it right?"

To that, Nadeshiko smiled at everybody's reaction.

"—No. We still haven't made a child yet you know? Even though I would have wanted one right now"

My classmates began mumbling to each other due to her bombshell announcement which was able to make people dumbfounded when dropped.

"Wha— What!?"

I couldn't close my mouth.

No, "done it" was not meant in that kind of way you know!

Furthermore, what do you mean by "not yet"!?

Though I'm wondering whether she understood what I tried to tell her anyway.

"Come on Nii-san. Let's hurry before the cafeteria gets crowded"

"A, ah, Let's go, Nadeshiko... Y-you guys should hurry up too S-Satake!"

I stood up as to escape from the situation.

The awkward atmosphere still lingered in the classroom.

"Hey hey! You don't think they've actually done... it?"

"... Siblings who are that close to each other are pretty unusual. Ve-ry suspicious"

"They might be seeing each other in secret... It's frighteningly possible"

I really want to pretend I did not hear what they were whispering to each other.

Being in the spotlight is a regular thing for us, now suspicious, siblings.

After leaving the classroom I warned Nadeshiko.

"Say, Nadeshiko. Don't say such things in the classrooms too often..."

"Fufu. You are talking about the weird misunderstandings?"

"Right, those. Since we are brother and sister after all. You don't like being the target for weird rumors right?"

"That's fine isn't it? Since it won't change the fact that I love Nii-san after all"

She confessed while clinging to my arm.

"Fufu, you get too easily flustered Nii-san. I want you to hurry and and make me yours only"

Her glossy long hair, her seducing lips.

Yamato Nadeshiko, that is my beloved sister, a beautiful flower.

This marks the first act of Nadeshiko's boisterous performances.

Chapter 1: My love shows in the blush on my face — Nekoyashiki

(Side: Yamato Takeru)

Yamato Nadeshiko.

That is my lovely little sister, like a beautiful flower.

An appearance that makes everyone think is amiable.

She gives off the impression like that of a pure lady worthy of that name.

I and my little sister, Nadeshiko went to the cafeteria together.

It's inevitable for the cafeteria to be crowded during this time of the day.

After finding an empty seat, Nadeshiko joined me at the table.

"You want the Lady's Lunch Set today as well?"

"Yes, thanks"

"Alright, then keep a watch on my seat for a bit"

I and my sister tended to come to the cafeteria a lot.

She would always order the daily menu set aimed for the ladies, her favorite it seems.

Today's lunch set was Carbonara with a salad.

I looked over the menus before deciding for the B lunch set. The one with the largest amount of food.

"Sorry for making you wait Nadeshiko"

"Thank you very much. So it's Carbonara today? It looks delicious. What about you?"

"I went for the B lunch set. The Chinese food one with pepper steak and ramen"

"You are always ordering the big ones. Those are definitely impossible for me"

She said admirably.

She is a person with a rather small appetite based on her figure.

"Itadakimasu!"

After joining our hands, we started eating.

"Which pasta type do you like Nadeshiko?"

"For you it is the meat sauce ones right? I always knew you liked them since we were children"

"Don't skip through the conversation please! You are correct though"

Nadeshiko has completely grasped what I like eating.

It isn't far off saying that she knows me more than I know myself.

"For me, it's either Vongole or the Pasta Genovese one. I love how light they are"

"Pasta Genovese is the greenish one right? I'm not really fond of it"

"The taste of the basil is very good I think. But it's perhaps an acquired taste?"

I rather prefer the ones with rich flavors unlike her.

Is this one of the difference between boys and girls?

Nadeshiko grabbed the fork and began eating.

"You make Carbonara at home sometimes right? Are those homemade? Or frozen?"

"Homemade. Carbonara is among the simplest of the pastas"

Nadeshiko's cooking is without doubt delicious.

I can't call myself a person who's good at cooking. If I did, it would be limited to breakfast.

"The ready-to-eat ones you can get today are rather good but prefer the cooking the old way. That is the result of the amount of free time I have though..."

"But you are a really good cook Nadeshiko"

"That's because of Nii-san who loves eating my cooking. As long as there are people who enjoy your food, your cooking improves itself. Would you like for me to make a Bento for you"

"No that's okay. I don't want to push you too much since you are bad at waking up. Eating outside during lunch may be good as well. Oh by the way, have you deciding on today's dinner?"

"Not yet. What do you like?"

I suddenly got an idea.

"How about curry? I want to eat it once in a while"

"That sounds good. I also have a recipe I want to try. I saw it on a TV show recently and I would really like to try it"

"What kind of curry is it?"

"It's called Butter Chicken Curry. Since it uses butter and yoghurt, it's not very spice, a mild curry. I'm going to have a go at it once I'm home!"

Since we loved cooking she frequently tried out recipes she found in books or on the net.

As long as she is in charge of the cooking, I'll always have some good dinner to look forward to.

"I'm looking forward to it!"

"Yes. Oh by the way, can you join me for shopping on the way home?"

"Of course. I can't let you handle the heavy bags all by yourself after all"

"You are so kind Nii-san, Fufu"

It will probably stop raining when school is over I think.

As I thought about various things, I finished my ramen.

"...Nii-san"

Nadeshiko was looking reprimanding at me.

"That's no good! You are leaving the green peppers again. Don't be such a picky eater!"

"... I'm not fond of them. You know that I'm bad with bitter melons and this"

I'm not very fond of bitter vegetables.

That is something I became aware of when I was little.

It's not that I cannot eat it, but I cannot do anything about my distaste for them.

"I could have eaten them if they were paprikas though"

"Don't make any excuses! You will have an unbalanced diet if you don't eat them. Besides, green peppers are super vegetables. Did you know that it has about the same amount of Vitamin C as the lemon?"

"In that case I would rather eat the lemon"

I was discovered leaving the green peppers due to only eating the meat of the pepper steak.

Nadeshiko tended to be quite annoying regarding these kind of things.

She's usually a gentle and docile girl, but once she has made up her mind, she will say it as it is.

"Please look the other way this time, okay?"

"No way. Here, let me help you"

She snatched the chopsticks from my hand and grabbed a pepper.

Ugh, the green devils are coming straight at me.

"Nii-san, please open your mouth"

"I dislike what I dislike"

"Here, Aaa—"

Being forcefully urged by her, I opened my mouth in the end.

The bitterness of the pepper spread inside my mouth. I'm bad with them as expected.

"So bitter!... and eating them one by one is even tougher!"

"...chuckle* You did great Nii-san!"

"Am I a kid or what?"

"I'm glad you are eating it properly, that's all"

When cooking at home, she usually won't use green peppers against my will.

She fully understood why tastes after all.

However, when eating outside, she shows no mercy.

"...Ugh, leaving them aside was a big mistake"

"Eat them together with the rest of the food from now on, okay?"

I was fed the green pepper from the now satisfied Nadeshiko.

Though I won't go down without going for a counter attack.

"So Nadeshiko, since you are telling others to eat them, you should be prepared to follow them too right?"

"Eh? Ah, t-that's..."

Nadeshiko, like me, has something she is poor at eating.

For some reason, she dislikes all sorts of ham. See, the bacon are still on her Carbonara plate.

"Even though you dislike ham and sausages somehow, other types of meat seems to be okay"

"... I'm not fond of the unique saltiness and the smell. Dry-cured ham is therefore out of the question"

No matter what kind of food, there will be people who are bad at them, each with their own reasonings. But, this is revenge for the green peppers!

"Well then, I will feed them to you, like them or not!

"U-uu... at the very least not that, Nii-san"

"Saying people shouldn't be picky, but excluding yourself?"

"I know but... don't tease me Nii-san"

Nadeshiko pleaded my with moist eyes.

I'm feeling powerless upon my sister gazing at me like that.

The craving for revenge faded away and I ended up muttering "very well".

In the end, I'm a brother who spoils my little sister.

"You eat them instead, Nii-san!"

"Can't be helped, but only this time okay!"

"I really love how Nii-san says it! Here, Aa—"

The bacon was fed to me by Nadeshiko after all.

Our conversation was heard by the classmates behind us, seemingly making them annoyed.

"You guys! Stop with flirting in the public! Are you a couple or what?!"

Complaining looks were directed at us as always.

Whenever I lose my awareness of the surroundings, such this happens.

Sorry for troubling you guys every time!

"Before his sister entered the school, I always thought Yamato-kun was cool and good-looking. Now he's just a shadow of his past self. No matter how cute his sister is, there is a limit to the flirting!"

"Yeah. Even though he's like this now, even I had a time when I admired him"

... Hah, the ratings from the girls are dropping right in front of my eyes!?

Even though I'm like this, I was pretty popular one year ago I believe.

The result of all this is needless to say, when Nadeshiko entered the school.

"Nii-san, you have some food left on your face"

Completely ignoring my worries, my sister wiped my mouth with a tissue.

This act raised the annoyance level of everyone around.

"W-what in the world, that girl... Aren't they just like a couple?"

"Even though I said they should stop with the flirting already! So jealous! Damn it!"

"... Even though they are siblings, aren't they going too far? I'm getting embarrassed just from watching them"

Protests from the boys and the girls in side the cafeteria...

"Hey Nadeshiko. Hold back a bit in public alright? Their eyes are scary!"

"I can see why you are bothered by other people's glances. I however can only see Nii-san"

She laughed with a great smile while casually saying what she wanted to say.

"Yamato Nadeshiko, a force to be reckoned with..."

Nadeshiko continued to smile disregarding everyone's reproachful eyes. I think that's somewhat amazing.

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Chapter 2: Flowers of love are dancing, fluttering in the wind

(Side: Yamato Takeru)

The beginning of April signals the season of matriculation.

The temperature has also become quite pleasant.

On our way home, Nadeshiko asked:

"Nii-san, can we stop by the park for a bit?"

"The park? It's been a while hasn't it, since we last came here..."

As per Nadeshiko's invitation, we went to a park near our home.

Beautiful rows of cheery trees extended throughout the park.

There wasn't anyone in the park, maybe due to it was evening.

"The spring has really come right? It's so warm"

"You are weak to the cold so you are welcoming it with open arms I guess.
Finally spring heh"

"I don't hate the winter particularly. Since I enjoy watching the pretty snow with my Nii-san after all. If it's summer, we could go to the beach. If it's fall we could watch the moon together. Spring, summer, fall, winter, the shifting seasons are wonderful when spent with Nii-san"

Nadeshiko is always optimistic.

I should probably learn from her example.

"That's a positive way of thinking. You always look like you're having fun"

"I do, each day is fulfilling on its own"

I watch the fluttering cherry blossoms with my sister.

"By the way, did you know that there's a tree that has flowers surprisingly similar to the cherries?"

"Nope. What kind of tree is it?"

"The almond tree. They are planted overseas for they pink flowers, just like our cherry trees"

"Is that so? News to me"

I guess the flowers of the almond tree are just as pretty as these.

Beautiful and pink, fluttering in the wind.

The flower that symbols the spring of Japan, the cherry tree.

When it flowers, people will know that spring has finally come.

Nadeshiko was looking up the the cherries, then said: "I'm relieved I'm finally entering the same school as you Nii-san"

"I've said this before but congrats"

"... Thank you very much. But it seems like Nii-san doesn't quite get what I was trying to say. What I want to say is this—"

She seized the sleeve of my uniform while pouting— "Nii-san... You've gotten quite popular during this last year without me"

"N-no that's..."

"Not it? Is that what you are trying to say? I've been asking around for opinions of you during the first week. Seems like the girls have rated you highly"

When did she manage to do all this?

Nadeshiko has, as you can see, a pretty jealous side to her too.

"Nii-san is fantastic and very cool, that I know the best. But to be favored by other girls gives me some complicated feelings"

"...Is that how it is?"

"Since my rivals increases after all. You understand that too right? The feelings I hold for you..."

Nadeshiko embraced me gently.

The smell of a woman, different from a man.

While the soft body of hers came into contact with mine she looked at me with upturned eyes, closing in on me.

"I think you know. I get jealous easily. I'm brocon who loves her brother after all. Please don't trample over my feelings. I will not betray you. You won't betray me will you?"

Cherry flowers were caught by the wind performing a whirling dance before scattering.

"Please don't respond to other girls' feelings aside from mine. Nii-san, infidelity is bad you know. I won't forgive you"

"... I'm not doing it though"

"I'm not questioning whether you are the type to cheat or not. You are a human after all. I won't deny the feelings you may have for girls. Man and woman have times when they attract each other. unfortunately, there are times when they make mistakes too"

With a joking expression, she continued.

"However, depending on the circumstances it will make these cherry flowers seem even prettier. Who knows, maybe the cherry flowers next year will be deep crimson instead of pale pink?"

"I don't want to ask what that means"

When imagining it, my face became stiff.

"The bewitching beauty of the cherries can be found under the tree..."

"I-it's okay, you don't have to continue. I understand what you are trying to say"

The reason the cherries are beautiful is found under the... (the rest is omitted).

... I'm praying earnestly for Nadeshiko to not be a person able to do that.

"Nii-san is bad you know. Since you won't accept my feelings. They have never changed since we were small, I will always love only you Nii-san.

"... Since we are siblings after all"

"I don't want to hear such a standard phrase"

Brother and little sister. A love relationship which cannot be showed in public.
A forbidden relationship.

The world has decided that they shall not love each other.

No matter how much I love...

Nadeshiko then started talking nostalgically beside me.

"Nii-san, do you remember? The promise you made with me here?"

"Promise?"

"You promised me didn't you? That you would take me as your wife?"

My sister's eyes was filled with anticipation.

It was from before I entered elementary school that I made a promise with my sister here.

"When I grow up I'll take Nadeshiko as my wife!"

Something anyone could say when they were children, a laughable story to tell when one became adults.

But I was probably serious about it when I was a child.

I remember it alright, but due to me getting embarrassed, I tried to dodge the question.

"...Did we promise something like that? Ah, I don't think I remember?"

"Oh, Nii-san. That's the face of someone who do"

"I wonder? It's something that happened long ago right? I think it's harder to actually remember though"

"But still. There is no way Nii-san has forgotten about our promise. It's pointless trying to pretend you don't you know?"

She said clearly, her lips closing in on me.

"If I should point out one of Nii-san's weaknesses, then it would be that you don't have the courage to betray the world. Brother and sister. The road ahead

seem very bad. However, I still want that courage"

"...Courage"

"You need not only love to proceed with a love nobody is going to understand, but also courage. However, I won't blame you for lacking it. The only thing I can do for that kind of Nii-san is..."

Without hesitation, her lips touched mine.

"...Nnn"

Clearly, our lips are touching.

Even though it was probably only for a short while, it felt like forever.

"—this is the only way I know of to make Nii-san serious"

Showing an entranced expression while smiling, her lips parted.

"N-Nadeshiko!?"

She laughed seeing me bewildered by her sudden actions.

"Fufu. It's your fault for leaving so many openings. You are too defenseless. You only have yourself to blame for getting kissed by me"

"... good grief, I need to be careful from now on"

"That's right. That's why you should always be aware of me. I am prepared to do anything for you Nii-san"

Nadeshiko caressed her lips.

Her glossy lips drew my eyes to it.

"If you leave an opening I may attack you again so please prepare yourself
chuckle"

Pouting with her light pink lips, she tried provoking me.

A little sister who tries to seduce her brother, a little devil indeed.

She was a girl who is able to overcome the obstacle known as "siblings". An amazing girl.

"You said I looked happy earlier right? That's natural. Every second I spend

with you is a very important memory to me. That also applies to what is yet to come. I will continue to live out my days filled with happiness.

The cherry flowers were dancing, fluttering around—.

"Nii-san. Please continue giving my days full of happiness from now on too. I'm happy as long as I'm together with you"

It looked like as though she was being dressed by cherry flowers.

The blizzard of the cherry blossoms illuminated by the sunset.

The pink petals dyed in vermillion.

Nadeshiko's beauty was even more pronounced by the pretty scenery.

While under the influence of the fairytale-like atmosphere, she said: "Before I fell in love with Nii-san I was an obedient, plain and dark person. The person extending his gentle hands towards me was Nii-san. Always by my side protecting me no matter what. That the person I came to love"

The Nadeshiko from our childhood was very shy and afraid of strangers. She would always take shelter, hide behind someone.

"Did you know this? The world gets brighter when you are in love?"

"Brighter?"

"Yes. The colorful world I see now is thanks to falling in love with you Nii-san. Please don't betray my wholeheartedly feelings for you. I cannot love anyone but you"

The Yamato Nadeshiko I know is a very strong-minded person.

She possess courage I don't; is true to her feelings.

How about me?

I love her.

From long ago, the girl I loved was right before my eyes.

And yet, I'm a coward who does not dare do make a move.

I don't have the courage to break the taboo, to love my sister.

"...I'm getting hungry. Let's head home for now. Ah yes, how about making

dinner together with me sometimes? It's alright, I will teach you a everything you need to know"

"Sure, let's challenge ourselves then"

"There's meaning behind trying cooking together you know?"

I tightly grasped her extended hand and the two of us began walking again.

The sunset had almost set and it was getting dark.

My sister walking beside me, her irreplaceable love.

I felt tantalized thinking of myself, the one unable to take a step forward.

Chapter 3: Words beckoning ruin

(Side: Yamato Takeru)

During our lifetime, one single word can make you get into a predicament.

Unforeseen verbal slips, misunderstandings or incorrect word usage.

They may be trivial, but depending on the weight of the words used, the result may change greatly.

Yes, even if it's some casual words from a little sister.

"...sigh"

Turning pure white and burning out of exhaustion. That is the me taking the fifth lecture for today.

Everyone in the class sent quiet glances in my direction.

I was forced to avert my eyes due to their swift attacks!

We may have a problem with bullying in this class teacher.

... Or perhaps not. You reap what you sow.

The source of my exhaustion was due to the events happening during lunch break.

How good it would be if I could turn back time.

Getting stuck in this predicament is due to my carelessness.

"Takeru Nii-san~"

After the lunch break came to a close, I returned to my classroom, reading manga which was being swapped around.

Then Nadeshiko, who I ate lunch with earlier, entered the classroom.

She seemed nervous, entering the upperclassmen's' classroom, from the way she surveyed the area.

I know exactly how it feels like wandering in the class of others.

It's hard to get used to the awkward uncomfortable feelings when entering.

"What's up Nadeshiko?"

"I forgot to tell you this earlier. There's a meeting for the QoL committee members later so we can't go home together"

"Is that so? Alright, but couldn't you just have sent me a mail instead?"

"...I'm bad at handling mobile phones. You knew that already right?"

Even though she looks like she does, she's bad at handling electrical devices.

She can use the phone for calling, but typing a mail would take too much time.

"You guys are always heading home together right?"

The girls sitting nearby suddenly raised their voices.

Nadeshiko visits the classroom pretty often and the fact that she is my sister is well known.

"Yes, that's right. I'm always together with Nii-san"

"I also have a brother, but we I'm not sure I want to be "that" close. How come you are so?"

"Even if you ask me, hmm. We have always been this way as far as I know"

Even though she explains it in that way, the truth is, us siblings has been this close ever since kindergarten.

The one closest to each other, the one knowing the best what the other is thinking.

We have a rather good relationship.

It's not like we never quarrel with each other either. However, it's not gotten to the point where the relationship has been bad for a long time.

"The truth is... Our relationship is not that of siblings"

"Eh?"

She stated out of the blue and gathered everyone's attention.

I was wondering what she would say, but didn't she just say something outrageous?

"—I and Nii-san are in a relationship like that between man and woman"

"Could you stop saying dangerous things without hesitation like that!?"

Her gentle lovely smile she always shows, The "Nadeshiko Smile".

She's either unaware or doesn't know the significance of what she just said.

Nadeshiko's statements sometimes have the ability to give people the chills.

In addition to that, the girls who joined our conversation was stuck dumbfounded.

"Let me see, in other words... What does it mean? You mean a forbidden relationship?"

"N-No way. There is no way. Yamato-kun, you aren't forcing your sister to... do indecent thing, which cannot be mention, every night or?"

A big misunderstanding!?

"I'm not touching my sister! I'm not a pervert either"

"Really? Your sister is a beauty after all. This is getting suspicious."

"Just listen, you guys are misunderstanding big time"

Before the strange suspicions gets circulated, I warn Nadeshiko in hot haste.

"Nadeshiko, just listen to me, please don't say anything that makes people make the wrong conclusions"

"...you mean a misunderstanding? What are you saying is a misunderstanding?"

"A-a relationship like that between man and woman makes it sound really sketchy"

"I'm genuinely looking at Nii-san as a "man" after all"

The words she returned with a bright smile was yet again problematic.

Furthermore, my classmates was getting really noisy.

"Yamato-kun has done it with his sister after all..."

"To think that he would be a bona fide "siscon". Also, after his sister entered

the school, Takeru-kun's rating have dropped like a rock"

"Well, It's still fine being a siscon, but to cross the line between a man and a woman...?"

Spurious rumors. I tried earnestly to explain to everyone in the noisy classroom.

"Wait a second! There's a big misunderstanding here. I'm not a dangerous human alright!"

"..."

Nobody is willing to believe me!?

"...You're a siscon indeed, Yamato-kun. Even though I admired you so much, this is too sad"

"After all we've seen of him and his siscon tendency, It can't be helped that people has gotten their image of him broken"

"So this is the real Yamato-kun. A terrible disappointment"

"To think he was popular with the girls last year. His epoch has ended"

The favorable opinions of him from girls were dropping like the stock prices.

I can't stand it, the way everyone is looking at me with suspicion lighting in their eyes.

"Nii-san. Why are you so flustered?"

She very person dragging me further down into abyss asked nonchalantly.

Her airhead-ness is really amazing.

"Chuckle* You are worrying too much Nii-san. Outsiders are just outsiders after all. There is nobody that can come between us or interfere with our relationship"

... You are planning on finishing me off right, Yamato Nadeshiko?

My position in this class is in jeopardy.

The situation is falling into dangerous levels.

"Without fear of any misunderstandings I can say this, I and Nii-san love each

other from the bottom of our hearts"

"Your brother would be glad if you feared them and didn't say anything. We are just normal siblings!"

Please tell me how that won't spur any misunderstandings will you?

I do love Nadeshiko though, but please think about the surroundings.

"So. ...Nii-san. If that's your answer, I have something else planned"

No good, now I've incurred her wrath.

She blew her cheeks pouting.

The girl Yamato Nadeshiko was, just like namesake "Yamato Nadeshiko", neat and tidy, gentle in manner, a graceful lady.

However, she is a pain once you make her pout, getting extremely uncontrollable.

"You mean my simple statements put your position in class in jeopardy?"

"It already is. You knew that already didn't you?"

She's still planning on dragging me further into ruin, this sister of mine.

"It worries me seeing if Nii-san is not more aware of his love for me"

"...I'm already aware as it is, though I'm more aware of his creeping danger"

"Should I reveal our secret to everybody here?"

I cannot stop my sister's rampage.

I had now idea what to expect so I had no other choice than to just stare blankly at her.

She put her index finger to her lips, faced my classmates and let out a bombshell announcement, "—This is a secret between us, my breasts have become this large due to him massaging them!"

"I-I did not! Of everything being said, this one is definitely not true!"

I have not done anything so enviable.

It's true that Nadeshiko's assets are bigger than average, having a splendid

figure.

A sister possessing both charm and attractiveness for each year gone by, turning into a beautiful girl.

"Y-Yamato-kun, doing that to your own sister! What a terrible human you are!"

The girls are drawing away from me...

"... To think that the figure of the school idol, Yamato Nadeshiko, was due to her brute older brother actions!"

"Don't twitter it!? Everyone at school is going to know!"

If I don't do something, not only will my position in class get worse, but will be unable to come to school any more.

Even under these circumstances, Nadeshiko will still be popular due to her beauty.

Her fans, a horde of boys, will be directing their murderously jealousy towards me though.

And my classmates are about to score a knockdown on me without mercy.

"Ah, it looks like time's over"

It seems like lunch break has ended without me noticing it. The chime would probably sound at any moment.

Before Nadeshiko left for her classroom, she said:

"Well then Nii-san. Let's meet again at home"

It's over, the flow of time has saved me.

It was a mentally exhausting lunch break.

"Fufu, Nii-san, let's take a bath later today as well okay?"

"Ah, sure"

Everybody stiffened saying "Eh!?" due to my casual reply.

"—Ah!?"

I-I, just now, did I just follow the flow of conversation, agreeing?

Ah, awawa... I've finally done it.

"N-no that's wrong. What I just said, Umm, It's not what you guys are thinking"

Everybody drew away, silence returning to the classroom.

The worst part is that none of my classmates were reacting.

"Ah, well, everyone? T-to think you would fall for these jokes, it was just Nadeshiko fooling around yes. Don't take it the wrong way, right guys?"

My bitter hoarse smile resounded desolately in the silent classroom.

"...*Sob* Anyone, please say something will you?"

The fact that there were no response was the scariest.

"He-y, the class starts now. Back to your sea— what is it? Why is it so silent here?"

The teacher responsible for the lesson muttered after seeing the mood.

After school, the fact that "Yamato Takeru bathes everyday with his sister Yamato Nadeshiko" was spread throughout the entire school.

My calm school days have ended... It's over...

Before the cold looks from my surroundings, I felt the despair sinking into me.

Chapter 4: A little sister unable to separate from her brother

(Side: Yamato Takeru)

If I should explain about our household, I can say that I and Nadeshiko lives alone. Our father, a politician, lives in the city along with our mother who went to take care of him. Once in a while, our older sister, who is university student, come and visits us. Since Nadeshiko takes care of the housework, I'm not worried about my daily life. While that is perfectly fine, my school life as received fatal damage. Suspicions of me being a siscon is just the tip of the iceberg.

I don't even want to think about my status at school from tomorrow on.

"Nii-san, are you still worrying about it?"

"... How could I not?"

"There is no use crying over spilt milk. Just give it up"

There's no way I can ignore my peaceful school life crumbling away so easily.

She's always this calm when talking.

"With fear of repeating myself, outsiders are in the end just outsiders. I'm not worried about what others may say about our relationship. It's a waste worrying about them and it makes life boring"

"...You are amazing being able to say that"

Not worrying about others.

People can't normally mimic that side of hers.

"It's not even a lie in the first place, only pure facts. Come on, Nii-san, wash my hair please?"

"... yeah, yeah. Don't move then will you?"

I was washing my sister's hair in the bathroom.

And, this is probably the biggest problem, we both sat in the bathtub.

I can say that this relationship has not changed since kindergarten.

... That's probably why I ended up, carelessly or maybe unconsciously, agreeing with her earlier today.

I know that this is considered abnormal.

Siblings don't usually enter the bath together, that I understand.

However, on top of being a habit, Nadeshiko strongly vetoed my proposals to enter the bath separately.

"I like Nii-san washing my hair the most"

The smell of women's shampoo drifted throughout the bathroom.

It was embarrassing even when we both had towels, trying to ourselves.

The white skin peeking through the towels.

Well grown breasts, the pretty lines of her bottom.

Even though I'm used to it, I'm still aware of her growth. She was a beauty after all.

"What you are the most worried about is how the girls will see you from now on?"

"Not only that though... ugh*"

I was suddenly showered with the water hose.

The ice cold water splashed on the head and surprised me.

"I'm sorry, I think I may have twisted the tap"

"... That was on purpose right, Nadeshiko? Ugh, it's so cold, ah-choo!"

"The fact that Nii-san is popular with other girls is bad in the first place. Don't you think being interested in other girls other than me is wrong? Please think about it once more right?"

She said showing me her sulky, pouting face.

I continued washing her long, glossy hair.

"Nii-san, don't you too feel uncomfortable whenever I'm eyeing other boys?"

"...Sorta, I can more or less see what you're trying to say"

"There we have it. I'm don't have feelings for other boys other than you Nii-san. Saying that, I do feel somewhat displeased by how you overly try to spoil me. I'm worried that Ooce Nii-san lets your guard down, you will be distracted by someone else"

She turned around, her hair overflowing with foam.

"... You aren't hiding something from me, like having a girlfriend behind my back?"

Flustered from the increasingly unpleasant mood, I turned on the tap"

"More importantly, don't move when I'm washing your hair"

"U-Uu, don't try to change the topic"

I washed away the foam with the warm water while caressing her hair.

It felt very smooth and silky.

Her hair has never been dyed, no rough strands at all.

Yamato Nadeshiko, as her name implies, a beautiful Japanese beauty. I wholeheartedly wished for her hair to stay that way for a long time.

"...Nii-san is a wonderful person. That's why there are girls other than me who holds you dearly. That's how it has always been, and that's how it will be from now on"

"I'm not feeling that popular though"

"That's because I'm thwarting every chances here and there"

My little sister casually just said something scary!

"I'm also a boy after all. Of course I'm interested in girls. Wanting to be popular is something else though"

"... That's, because of how, Nii-san, my most important person, may want to taste how it feels to have a harem. So you're saying you have such impudent desires? If so I have a plan on my own"

Once I was finished rinsing her hair, she suddenly started to throw off of her towel.

Seeing her white bottom for a moment through the gaps of the towel, I almost lost my calm.

Her overwhelming conduct as if to emphasize her large breasts.

"W-wait, stop, what's gotten into you!?"

"I was planning on making Nii-san lust for no other than me"

"Wait, don't be so hasty!"

"What a shock, to think that Nii-san would be this prone to infidelity"

I was desperately trying to stop the fuming Nadeshiko from undressing herself.

"Don't take of that towel except cleaning yourself!"

We at least still had some rules despite taking a baths together.

Erotic things was prohibited in our house for example.

... If not, I would be worried about Nadeshiko nestling closer to me.

I still have my standards to follow, even if she was my sister.

"But now I know precisely why I have to seduce you or else"

"... Seducing or whatever, I think you are very charming already"

"Nii-san..."

Hearing this, Nadeshiko blushed, while answering.

"I won't be fooled by those words. Nii-san, I'm still angry!"

When she gets mad, she gets really angry.

It took quite a to pacify the furious Nadeshiko.

I could only apologize with "I'm sorry" in the end.

It should take a while longer to soothe her completely.

After leaving the bathtub, I wiped dry her hair with a towel.

"I prefer you doing it yourself rather than drying my hair with that dryer myself"

This is a slice of my daily life.

Why is a girl's hair so different from a boy I wonder.

She seemed to have calmed down from me wiping dry her hair.

"Have you cheered up a bit?"

"I do, whenever you show me your love"

I was desperately inquiring about her mood while drying her hair.

"Nii-san... I have finally decided!"

"Decided on what?"

"I won't hold back any longer. I've decided to sink your honor to the point where the girls at school will abandon you. I will drop your status to the bottom!"

"No way! Don't add more oil to the fire please!?"

I wish for no more than for her to refrain from such actions.

Though my status among girls have dropped considerably ever since she entered the school.

"...If you promise to only love me, I will forgive you, Nii-san"

She said devilishly with an angelic smile plastered on her face.

My sister's love is a load too heavy to bear...

Chapter 5: I Only Look At You

(Side: Yamato Nadeshiko)

If I asked him, 『Big brother, what exactly do you think of me?』, I was sure to receive, “A cute sister,” as an answer.

On the other hand, if he asked me 『What exactly do you think of your brother?』, then I would surely answer:

"Big brother is the person I love the most in this world, and someone I want beside me for my entire life."

".... um, thank you."

After dinner, he indifferently answered me as he held a cup of freshly brewed coffee in one hand.

His coffee was black, and neither sugar nor milk was added; such an adult-like taste was wonderful.

"It seems like you don't believe me? Even though I really think that way?"

"I'm happy about Nadeshiko's feelings towards me."

The smiling face he showed me is the one I love the most.

Big brother always shows me a kind smile, and I'm always being spoiled by that smile.

"Are you really happy about it?"

"..... of course."

"Then, can I have your signature on this marriage registration form I have prepared?"

"That's way too sudden, no way. In the first place, siblings cannot get married, right?"

Big brother doesn't respond to my love.

What are you thinking about, sweeping away the atmosphere without hesitation?

Even though your little sister is confessing her love to you so much.

"If it's half-siblings, there are countries where they are allowed to get married."

"..... although we're not half-siblings."

"Big brother, please respond to my love better! For example, even if we are siblings, I think it is something we can get over if there is love."

He placed the cup of coffee on top of the table, and,

"I don't think I can keep up with Nadeshiko's love for me."

"B-Big brother... have you grown to dislike me?!"

As if in response to his overly shocking statement, I thought I felt a vise gripping my chest, starting from the innermost depths of my heart.

While pressing down on the throbbing pain in my chest, I drew closer towards him.

"Big brother, did you plan on just playing around with your little sister's pure love and then discard me after you were done? Like an empty drink can after you've finished drinking it, you're going to throw me away? So mean! Inhumane! Sob."

"That's wrong, I didn't have that meaning! Moreover, that kind of person would be an extremely unpleasant guy....."

Big brother showed a troubled expression on his face.

"I didn't say that with any particularly weird intentions."

"If that's the case, what did you mean? Big brother, please properly explain it to me in a way that I can understand. Otherwise, I am.. I am prepared to mobilize all necessary measures towards you."

"U-Use of force?! A sudden declaration of war? Calm down! I think siblings should try to get along happily."

"In that case, please don't say such a lonely thing. I'll cry, you know?"

As I leaned on big brother's shoulder, I clung to him.

"Have you already fallen in love with someone else? Am I to be treated as an unnecessary person now?"

"..... I don't know what to think of you talking to me like I am a boyfriend who has just cheated on you. What I want to say, is that I can't become someone like Nadeshiko. It's also my personality, but I'm the type who always has the brakes on no matter what."

He softly patted my head and stroked it as he talked to me with the air of speaking to a child,

"Occasionally, I also thought about being like Nadeshiko and wanted to try living while being honest with myself."

"Big brother worries too much about appearances again!"

"..... No, normally you'd worry about appearances, right?"

If I had to say my big brother's bad points, one would be that he is too serious.

Though that can also be said to be good, but diligent self-control can also become an hindrance to love.

"Why? Isn't that good? Please consider it! Where else would you find siblings who still take baths together at this age? If you want to think about our relationship from a normal perspective or something, I would also be troubled. This kind of relationship can't possibly be normal, right?!"

"You said so yourself?! so even Nadeshiko was aware of it."

Of course, I am self-consciously aware that this is not normal.

Even so, the feelings of love I have towards my big brother cannot be stopped.

"—something like restraining my desire to make big brother my possession and mine alone, is completely impossible."

I live honestly with myself because I only have one life.

Holding regrets is the one thing I don't want no matter what.

"Even if we worry about appearances, it is unavoidable. Now, big brother, please be obedient. I know about it, you know?"

I whispered to big brother while clinging to his chest.

"W-What?"

"That is, I know about big brother's black hair fetish. Last time, when I was cleaning big brother's room, I found a photograph collection with a very unusual proclivity. Not only did they all have large breasts, but it was exclusively black-haired women. Since I have always had black hair, I am an existence

closest to big brother's taste. It makes me happy."

"I-I, I'm really going to cry. Listen little sister, it's fine if you don't clean your older brother's room. I'm begging you!"

I showed a smile to big brother who had received a large shock and was crestfallen with his head down.

"Please don't forget when I say that I always know all of big brother's secrets, ok?"

With a cramped face, he uttered, "...yes," and gave a small nod.

"Big brother, something like escaping from my love is utterly impossible, so please give up quickly."

As we had this heart-to-heart, the sound of the front door of the house opening could be heard.

"Who could it be?"

"It should be our older sister, right?"

In accordance with our expectations, the person who showed up to the living room was our big sister Yamato Miyabi.

A third year university student, with a five year age difference from us, she was twenty years old, disliked by no one, and had an agreeable personality.

"Welcome home, big sister Miyabi."

"I'm home. I see you two are together as always and on good terms."

After becoming an university student, she had left home and was now living by herself in a nearby apartment.

She occasionally returned to look after us in place of our parents who were frequently away from home.

"It's not good if I don't come back every now and then to see my younger siblings. There's also the promise with our parents."

"Older sister, you don't have to purposely go out of your way to live alone, it's fine if you stay in this house."

"Living on my own was something I wanted to do. Though it was troublesome when I tried it, it was also unexpectedly fun."

"Because we also are going through a similar experience, I understand your feelings. I can feel the happiness of living together as just the two of us. This is big brother's and my love nest."

Big sis said "Isn't it bad to arbitrarily turn this into your love nest" while

laughing.

"Nadeshiko really loves Takeru, huh. You guys should combine together already."

"That shouldn't be an older sister's line, right?!"

In the middle stood my somewhat scandalized big brother.

"That's because I am Nadeshiko's ally. To support a younger sister's love is an older sister's role, right?"

She says so and smiles at me.

My big sister Miyabi understood my feelings.

More so than anyone else, in my family's expectations of us, she was the one who understood the most.

"As expected of my big sister Miyabi. To understand the depths of my love, I am grateful."

"Since there's all sorts and types of love in this world, if you can become happy, then isn't that also a good thing?"

"That's right. So with that said, big brother. Please connect with me, and let's make a happy family together."

"No no, it's not that simple of a problem. Older sister too, please be more

careful with your remarks."

The relationship between us sisters was very good.

I'm surrounded by the people precious to me, who give me happiness every day.

To hope for more happiness than this might be hoping for too much, but I want to become even happier, which is my one selfish side.

My life after falling in love with big brother has changed greatly.

This feeling of love not something that should be suppressed.

So I continue to hope that big brother will hurry and also become honest with his own feelings, and accept them.

Chapter 6: Sweet Whispers

(SIDE : Yamato Takeru)

Two weeks have already passed from the start of the new semester.

In the morning that day, while I was in the middle of changing into my school uniform and preparing to go to school,

"Good morning, Takeru."

My mom who rarely appeared was in the kitchen.

I didn't notice at all when she had come back home.

Starting from junior high school, my parents were frequently away from home due to work. After my older sister moved out, it was often just Nadeshiko and I, the two of us, living here now.

"Breakfast has been prepared."

"Thank you. When did you come back?"

"Late last night. I had some business along this way, but I won't have any more time to come back home today. Sorry about always being unable to slow down. If you have something for me, you should tell me now."

I understood that dad's work was also very difficult.

We might not seem like an ordinary family, but it was not like we were abandoned either.

Our parents properly loved our family, and there was no dissatisfaction on that part.

I sat at the table and began to eat breakfast.

"Nadeshiko still hasn't woken up yet?"

That girl was a weak person in the morning.

If she does not wake up and come down soon, I'll go to her room to wake her up.

"..... Takeru, can I ask you a question?"

Saying so, my mom looked at me with an unreadable expression on her face.

"What is it?"

"I had a feeling from before, but don't you siblings get along too well?"

Apparently, it seemed like there was some strange misunderstanding.

I explain that it wasn't anything in particular.

"For as long as I can remember, Nadeshiko and I have always had gotten along well, as siblings."

"It's because you think that is normal that you're mistaken, okay? Takeru, in

this world siblings don't repeatedly go on dates on the weekends with their arms linked and fingers interlocked like lovers. Your father and I really want you to think that the relationship and attitudes the two of you have are abnormal."

Having my parent say that much was also painful for me.

She warned me with an amazed expression on her face.

"Though being on bad terms with siblings is also a problem, what do you think about siblings who are too intimate?"

I received my mom's preaching while eating an omelet.

Our parents have had a negative view of our relationship from since a long time ago.

"Be honest, you aren't in a strange relationship with her, right?"

"A strange relationship?"

"..... romantic relationship."

I choked in response to my overly frank mother.

What the hell kind of suspicions are being directed at me?!

"Geh, cough. Wha-what kind of things are you trying to say, there's no such thing going on!"

"....."

"Can you stop with that silent stare?!"

That all too serious face was unnecessarily painful.

"Please also consider the feelings of the parent who can't help but make that sort of face. I also want to hear about Takeru's feelings. Do you want to have a lover's relationship with Nadeshiko?"

"What kind of question is that?! A brother who will tell his mother, 'I want to be lovers with my little sister,' would be a hopeless person in society right?!"

"..... Can I really believe that you don't have that intention?"

"Up to now, have I done anything to make you believe otherwise?"

I lied in order to avoid having my own feelings be seen through.

Well, I do like Nadeshiko, but there's no way I can admit such a thing in this kind of situation.

"Because Nadeshiko and I are siblings, you see."

That line is starting to become my standard line.

Every time I uttered it though, my heart ached.

In addition, I didn't even know whether mom was relieved by that.

"Anyway, it will be a problem if you don't show some moderation in

associating as siblings, understand?"

"I understand already."

"I don't really want to say this, but if your brother-sister relationship that I'm already worried about goes any further, even I won't be picky with the methods I need to use. I'm sure you can imagine how that will turn out, so please don't make me worry too much about your relationship becoming too intimate."

What an ominous statement, as if warning me that hostile countermeasures were being considered.

Mom quietly told me "Takeru should prepare himself for that time."

I don't know exactly what she was thinking about, but she seemed to have some scheme in mind.

"If you two had a close but wholesome relationship as brother and sister, even I wouldn't have anything more to say. However, Nadeshiko completely sees you as a love interest. Takeru, you are the final line of defense. I implore you, don't lose sight of yourself."

For my parent to be able to speak about our siblings' relationship to that much detail was amazing.

As for my family's worries, let's place that matter in the corner of my mind.

While on the way to school together with Nadeshiko, I was telling my sister about the order of restraint from our mom.

"I see, so mother has noticed the romantic relationship that exists between big brother and me."

"Don't fabricate reality. We don't have a relationship as lovers, just as siblings with an overly close relationship."

"That would be the difference in "perception" between big brother and me, right? I have every intention of being big brother's lover."

A younger sister who would calmly declare herself to be her older brother's lover, that would be Yamato Nadeshiko.

"All those who would come between the relationship between big brother and me, for example, even if it were mother, I would declare to be an enemy! Regardless of whoever they are, I cannot forgive anyone who would try to interfere with my love. It is not my intention, but I have resolved myself even for the need for full-out war!"

"N-No no, let's put behind us this parent and child showdown. Peace is important, peace is number one."

"..... it is sad, but even looking at history, parents and children are fated to fight one another, big brother."

"Fate?! Wait, please calm down! Nadeshiko, a family feud between parents and children is not what I want."

If it was the Nadeshiko right now, she would be capable of anything, so I needed to stop my younger sister's reckless rampage.

If things became like that, my dad who doted on his daughter would also be in a huge quandary.

I think a family which gets along happily is the best.

"As long as big brother is mine, there is nothing else that I would want."

"Nadeshiko is really single-minded"

"That's right! That's why, big brother should take responsibility for these feelings and get married with me please."

"..... regarding that matter, I have no comment."

There is a brother here who was proposed to by his younger sister early in the morning.

And then, forget rejection, that soft-hearted older brother who couldn't even mount a strong denial was me.

When we arrived at the school, Nadeshiko went "that's right" as if she suddenly recalled something,

"Because of some business I need go to the faculty room today, so I'll bid you farewell here. Let's meet again for lunch, big brother."

As I see off Nadeshiko's figure from behind her, Satake called out to me.

"What's this, were you fascinated with Nadeshiko-chan's appearance from the back, Yamato?"

"..... I was doing no such thing. It's because she's my little sister."

"With such a cute younger sister like that, to worry would be the natural reaction, huh? Right from the start of her admission, Nadeshiko-chan seems to have been considerably popular, you know. There are also a lot of rumors."

Nadeshiko is an indisputably beautiful girl, so of course becoming popular was a natural outcome.

It was that way in junior high too.

"Hmm? Ohh, a popular girl has appeared over there too."

In front of where Satake was staring at, people were gathering.

"Good morning, Sudou-san."

"Good morning. Even though it is warm and relaxing today, the fact that the cherry blossoms have already scattered is a little sad."

In the center of the crowd, there was a beautiful girl with a gentle smile floating on her face.

She had an adult appearance and a calm and composed atmosphere which would make you think that she was mature beyond her age.

Her long hair fluttered in the breeze, and she quietly used a single hand to grasp her hair.

"That Sudou-san is popular as always."

A girl who corresponded with a kind smile even when surrounded by everyone.

The name of the beautiful girl with hazel-colored hair was Sudou Fujiawayuki.

With an appearance like her name "light snowfall", she was a stunning girl with suitable snow-white skin.

Due to a pleasant and friendly personality, her popularity with boy and girls alike was high.

"But jeez, this school sure has a number of high class ladies. We're talking about the distinguished Sudou family, so she's quite a considerable ojou-sama, but the fact that she hasn't let that go to her head makes her really popular."

"That's right, she's a good-humored person, so talking to her is interesting."

Awayuki-san was my classmate in the same class as me last year.

If I were to describe us, it could be said that we had a small relationship, enough to say that we could be called friends.

When she noticed us, she lightly raised her hand in greeting.

"Takeru-kun, good morning. Just now I saw you getting along well with your sister while walking with her. The relationship between you two was so close, it was as if you were lovers."

"I wish you wouldn't say that to make of me."

"I wasn't joking, you know, because it really seemed that way."

This girl's smile had the charm to captivate others in an instant, and she just showed me a really wonderful smile.

"Girls who are in love are beautiful. Surely, she was in love. I'm a bit jealous."

Awayuki-san muttered "I also wish to fall in love" in a small voice.

Her profile somehow looked a bit lonely, though I also knew why.

Even though she wanted to fall in love, there were circumstances that won't allow it.

"It is good that I am in the same class as Takeru-kun again, because the only boy that I can place my trust in is Takeru-kun."

"I am honored to be trusted by Awayuki-san above all."

"Fufu... Hey, may I continue to count on Takeru-kun from now on?"

Most men would probably have been cajoled if she had whispered in their ears with that sweet voice.

..... Even I might be counted as one of those men charmed by that smile.

"If you require my power, then my strength is yours. As a friend, of course."

"I'm glad to hear you say that. I'll be counting on you. Now then, I'll see you again in the classroom."

As we separated from her, Satake muttered a sigh behind me.

"Aren't you getting a little too lovestruck from being relied on by a beautiful girl? I'll tell Nadeshiko-chan."

"I'm not lovestruck or anything! Also, keep this a secret from Nadeshiko, please."

"..... Yamato, I really don't get your "friendship" with Sudou-san."

Despite being such a popular girl, there were few males that were close to her.

That may be the reason why I frequently received glares from the other guys.

"It is because she is popular. It would be difficult to find a trustworthy guy with no ulterior motives, right?"

"And the reason why that trustworthy party is Yamato?"

"..... due to my everyday conduct?"

"Nicely said. If you really were trusted due to luck, I envy you. As expected of her "former lover" huh."

I deceived Satake by giving a vague smile and saying nothing.

Chapter 7: The Snow Which Falls in Spring

(SIDE : Yamato Takeru)

It was in the spring of last year when I first met Awayuki-san.

There was no extraordinary event, we just had cleaning duty together.

However, encountering her would change me greatly.

After school that day, we had gathered in the courtyard with cleaning tools in hand to clean... or that was the plan, but...

"Even though cleaning the cherry blossom petals can be troublesome, isn't it surprising that everyone decided to skip out?"

"..... isn't this how cleaning duty in high school usually turns out?"

There should have been other people cleaning here too, but Awayuki-san and I were the only ones here cleaning.

Sweeping up the cherry blossom petals that had fallen beneath the cherry trees was a tiresome chore.

Even as we swept, it felt like there was no end.

Because of that, I had thought one or two people might skip out, but...

"I understand how the people who wanted to skip out on sweeping the cherry blossom petals felt, but I definitely didn't imagine there would be nobody but us here. How bothersome."

"That's true. What about Yamato-kun? Didn't you want to skip too?"

"Even if I thought about doing that, it's not in my nature to do so."

Put nicely, I've always been diligent; but you could also say that I've always been indecisive.

It's painful if you say that I do things half-heartedly, so please don't say that.

"Ara, isn't it fine if you're a serious child? I like those kinds of people."

She gave me a kind and radiant smile.

It was the first time I had talked to her, but I had heard the rumors.

The young lady of the rich and famous Sudou family was one of our classmates.

Just that was enough to garner my interest, but for her to have been such a gentle girl.....

Her figure was good, she carried herself elegantly, and she had a friendly personality. It would have been impossible for her not to become popular.

"Well then, though it's just the two of us, shall we start cleaning?"

"Aah. Even though the cherry blossoms are beautiful, cleaning up afterwards sure is troublesome."

"Because even though people praise the sight of the falling cherry blossom petals as beautiful and fantastical, the fallen cherry blossom petals are treated as garbage. I've said something terrible, huh..."

We talked while we started cleaning with the brooms in our hands.

As expected, as soon as the cherry blossom petals were swept up, the wind would rain the next set of petals down.

Because there was no end, let's just stop at a reasonable place.

Even if I remained quiet, there was nothing else to do, so I tried asking her.

"I'm curious, did you dye your hair?"

Awayuki-san's hair was a beautiful hazel color.

It was not a showy color, nor was it especially rare for people to dye their hair to just that extent.

While she stroked her hair,

"This? This isn't dyed. My hair has been naturally light since I was born. People often ask me if it's dyed because its base color is brown."

"I thought so. Even though it could have been dyed, I thought it was very beautiful. My mother also has natural brown hair, so I thought that might be the case."

"..... heeeh, so Yamato-kun's mother is also like me."

Natural brown hair will appear to be light brown.

People with this condition were rare, and though my mother had it, Nadeshiko and I both had raven-black hair and didn't inherit it from her.

"However, my family is an old family, or you could say it's a family with a long legacy, so my grandmother didn't have a good impression of me.."

"Is it uncomfortable?"

"Not really. My mother also has the same hair color. Her hair is also naturally brown. Because this is something I inherited from my beloved mother, so it is an important thing to me. Because of this, I can feel that I am my mother's daughter."

She touched her hair as she murmured with what looked like a wistful expression on her face.

It seemed like she really loved her mother.

I could tell just from listening to Awayuki-san's words.

In the midst of the scattering cherry blossoms, towards her, I unconsciously.....

"It's beautiful."

"Eh?"

"Because Sudou-san's hair is very beautiful, so you should have more confidence."

When I said those words to her naturally, she made a surprised expression.

As her cheeks dyed red from embarrassment,

"Thank you..... but it is embarrassing if you compliment me with such a serious face."

"Eh, did I say something strange?"

"No... I see, so Yamato-kun was such a type. Mr. Dense, hmm."

She let out a giggle, and then freely laughed aloud.

"Yamato-kun, you sometimes inadvertently make advances towards girls, wouldn't you agree?"

..... In my heart, I had some knowledge of that fact, so I could only give a bitter smile.

I had heard that this person not only had light colored but also a different eye color.

Now that I looked more closely, her eyes and hair were the same hazel color.

"..... Yamato-kun, if you stare at my eyes that much, even I would feel rather embarrassed."

"Ah, s-sorry. I did something rude."

It was definitely impolite to suddenly stare at the face of a girl I had just met for the first time.

I averted my gaze immediately, but,

".....?"

When I looked at her profile, I felt a mysterious feeling.

Graceful long hazel hair.

The figure of a beauty that would charm anyone.

Even though I should have been meeting her for the first time, it didn't feel that way.

Do I know this girl from somewhere?

No, and our junior high schools were also different, so undoubtedly this must be our first meeting.

Yet, there was a feeling like I had met her somewhere before..... what was this mysterious feeling?

"..... Sudou-san, have I met you before, a long time ago?"

"Ara ara, am I being hit on by Yamato-kun?"

"That's not it! It wasn't a pick-up line or anything, I really felt that way."

While I denied it in a panic, she looked as if deep in thought.

"Uuun, though even I think that today is my first meeting with Yamato-kun?"

"..... Yeah, that's right. I asked a weird question"

"No... it was because you were embraced by a sense of familiarity from me, right?"

Rather than showing an unpleasant appearance towards my words, she gave me a gentle smile.

"Yamato-kun is really a very pure person. That pleases me very much."

".....is being pure-hearted really a compliment for a guy?"

"It is a compliment. I don't really have a good impression of boys."

She told me in a low voice only I could hear.

"Though I'm not overly self-conscious, but I am easily liked by boys."

"That's to be expected. A beautiful person like Sudou-san would definitely curry interest from the guys."

"Even so, however, for all the boys who approached me to be so openly stained with their desires, or better said, it has been only untrustworthy people! There didn't seem to be any decent boys, so I had given up, but, for some reason, Yamato-kun seems different from the others to me."

Whether or not she could be called popular was debatable, because she was liked by various kinds of guys.

"Although I don't think I'm the only person who thinks that way?"

When I tried making a joke, she gave me a radiant smile as if her point was proven.

"I can understand just from your attitude, that Yamato-kun is a good person. From my point of view, if Yamato-kun also didn't have an ulterior motive, then you would also seem like a two-faced person to me. I can place my trust in such a person. I hope to get along with you from now on."

"I hope to get along as well."

When I nodded and answered as such, she seemed glad.

"This is the last chance to see the cherry blossoms this year. Let's enjoy the beautiful cherry trees next year as well."

While we admired the cherry blossoms that were scattering, the cleaning was finished.

From that day forth, that girl and I continued our close friendship in that style to this day.

Was my encounter with her destiny, or—

Chapter 8: Yamato Nadeshiko in Full Bloom

(SIDE : Yamato Nadeshiko)

It all started with something I said.

"Why must something like adolescence exist? It would be fine if something like that was destroyed."

"Na-Nadeshiko. Please don't say such a dangerous thing all of a sudden."

"Ara, big brother, sorry. My actual feelings slipped out."

"..... those were your real feelings. I'm a little scared."

Big brother was watching television in his pajamas.

It was unusual for him to watch TV in the living room until late at night.

Even though I wasn't interested in what was on TV, I did lots of things with big brother just to stay near him.

"Why is adolescence making an enemy of Nadeshiko?"

"Because it is an obstruction to me. Big brother won't openly give me his love."

"..... so how is that connected to adolescence?"

"There are children who, after a certain age, try to separate from their mother, right? To have increased the distance between us for a reason like embarrassment, doesn't it seem similar?"

Big brother loves me.

I hold no doubt about that.

However, he seems to feel that his image as a brother who has too close of a relationship with his sister was embarrassing.

That attitude is one that I am unable to forgive by all means.

"A-adolescence or whatever cannot be helped right?"

"In that case, starting from tomorrow, will you openly declare that you love me?"

"I want to protect my current school life. There's only two years after this, let me pass through it peacefully and uneventfully."

You see, this is the problem.

Worried about the gazes of other people, he is embarrassed so he tries to conceal his thoughts of embracing me.

"I don't even particularly mind a big brother who is seen as an overly siscon brother in other people's eyes ."

"But I would mind! Rather, wouldn't I be the only one that would be receiving major damage?"

".....Muuuuu. I think it would be better for big brother to become honest with himself. You're awful."

While looking down, I quietly sit down on the same sofa big brother is sitting on.

I like the times when I can take my time to speak with Big brother.

"Please remember, the big brother in the past was very kind to me."

"Even though I intend to be gentle even now."

"The point where you are not honest is a minus point."

When I leaned against his shoulder, he slowly caressed my head.

That part of him was truly kind.

Though if seen from other people's eyes, he spoiled me like a lover would.

"Shall we talk about nostalgic stories? When I was a child, I was bad at getting along with people, and always just followed big brother when we were playing. Big sister and I had a significant age gap, so there was nobody else who could be my playmate. My world was only Big brother."

I was always staring at his back that was slightly bigger than mine.

Big brother was gentler than anyone, and lavished me with smiles.

"Those days, I really had few friends, and big brother was the only important person I felt I could talk to. And there was..... something that happened that summer in first grade. When I tripped and got hurt and couldn't walk, big brother carried me like a princess, literally."

"..... pft?!"

"Fufu. Seems like I was able to make you remember that. That's right, when I got hurt, and couldn't move and cried, you held me in a princess carry and brought me home. At that time, big brother said to me:"

As I was held in big brother's arms, the pain from the injury or whatever was forgotten.

He said to me in a gentle voice.

『For me, Nadeshiko is a princess, so I'll always protect you, okay? 』

Even now, you've kept your word; you've always been by my side, protecting me.

"Those words still remain inside me as one of my precious memories. If I am a princess to big brother, then big brother has always been my prince."

"P-please stop! Please stop exposing my past!!"

Big brother had an embarrassed face that said he wanted to climb into a hole. I wanted to see more of that expression, so I continued my talk.

"There's still more. It was when I was in my third year of elementary school."

"There's still more?!"

"There's much, much more. Because in the 15 years of my life that I have spent with my beloved big brother, I have made a lot of irreplaceable memories."

My memories with big brother were endless.

"That time was the first time I went to swim in the ocean. Although I had experience in the pool, it was the first time I had seen the sea with my own eyes. Do you remember that day when the three of us, big brother, mother, and I, went to the sea together?"

"..... erm?"

He looked like he was in the middle of recalling his memory with all his might.

"It doesn't look like you remember, hmm. In that case, I will remind you. We were fully enjoying the sea. I, who was overjoyed with my first visit to the ocean, wasn't yet able to swim well, yet right from the start I wanted to head out towards the open seas."

"——Nugyaaaaa!"

Big brother's painful cry echoed in the living room.

Somehow, he remembered and his face turned pale.

"And sure enough, I started drowning in a place where my feet didn't reach. Big brother, who panicked, was still going to come to my rescue, but because big brother was still a child, saving me was difficult. And then....."

"Wait. Seriously, please wait, don't say another word. You don't have to say it!"

Big brother tried to cover my mouth.

While avoiding his hand, I narrated the past event to big brother.

"When Big brother saved me, it was like Big brother was embracing me. However, though my hand had been grasped, my chest still hadn't expanded. That's right, though they were small, while I was unconscious, big brother passionately rubbed my breasts with both hands!"

"Noo!! It was different, at that time I was desperate, so there was completely zero intention of sexual harassment."

"I know. When you try to save a drowning child, there will be things like that. Incidents in the water are dangerous. Big brother grabbing and rubbing my small breasts wasn't life-changing for me either. In the same way that my breasts were tightly grasped, my heart has also been caught by Big brother."

"T-That was a rescue. I didn't rub a little girl's breasts or anything. I didn't even grab them?!"

While my cheeks were dyed red, big brother swore to me.

"Kusu kusu,1 big brother was the one who made my breasts grow this big."

"Ugagagaga..... save me, somebody save me. You've sent my past self flying without holding back enough already."

He hung his head.

His appearance was a bit cute, so I couldn't help but tease him.

"Please don't get depressed. I don't dislike your past self. To have received that much love makes me glad."

"Right now, I want to cry and also kill my past self."

I whispered to my depressed big brother, "Is it okay if I give the finishing blow?"

"Finishing blow?! T-There's still..... something else?"

"There is. The best. Big brother seems to have forgotten about it."

".....life is long, and I have many things I'd like to forget."

While I rested my hands on his crestfallen, drooping shoulders,

"Back during fifth grade in elementary school, it was in spring, the season of cherry blossoms. We were viewing the cherry-blossoms together, and then big brother had said to me."

While watching the beautiful scene of cherry blossoms dancing and falling,

"Nadeshiko is really cute. To me, Nadeshiko is a more adorable flower than these cherry blossoms."

After that, big brother suddenly brought his face closer towards me,

『I love you..... because Nadeshiko is my younger sister, I won't give you to anyone else.』

Just remembering it made my face flush red, thinking about big brother's possessiveness.

And then, to my lips, big brother slowly.....

"I-I remembered!! I remembered, so please forgive me with just that much. I beg of you. If anyone knew about it, my life would be finished."

"Kusu, I'm happy that you remembered it. It's scary not being able to change the past, isn't it?"

"Do you plan on telling anyone about that.... you don't. You wouldn't right? Right?!"

He appeared to be panicking; was he so upset at the idea that I might tell

someone?

"I won't tell. As long as big brother doesn't betray me. If by chance there comes a time when that happens, please prepare yourself, okay? I know lots of big brother's secrets. I might expose all of them."

As soon as I mentioned secrets, big brother's face changed color.

"W-what kind of secrets?"

"Other secrets which have the ability to destroy big brother's social standing, okay?"

When I smiled radiantly, big brother said to me while shaking,

"Of course, could you keep those secrets a secret?"

"It wasn't my intention to threaten you or anything. I just thought of sharing wonderful memories from the past, isn't that the case?"

"....."

"Fufu. The time and memories that I have accumulated with big brother are too numerous for another person to come in between us. Please continue to love me wholeheartedly from now on, big brother♪"

To love and to be loved.

I am enjoying this relationship from the bottom of my heart.

If there is someone who will disturb this happiness, I will never forgive them.

"I like big brother. I won't give you to anyone else. For that purpose....."

"..... what are you planning to do? Are you plotting something strange again?"

I gave an implication to big brother who had instinctively gone on guard, and

"I wonder? There's a lot of things I need to think about. Because my high school life has also just barely started, you see. I also haven't entirely grasped big brother's current situation yet, so I plan to wait and see."

"Though I want you to stay like that and not do anything."

"That depends on big brother's behavior."

I whispered to him who had a distant look in his eyes.

"If you're worried about my behavior, there's an easy solution, big brother."

"What?"

"Please hurry and be honest with yourself, and make me your lover. Let's deepen our love for each other. chuu~"

"It's because that's no good. D-Don't bring your lips closer."

Big brother shied away and moved some distance away from me.

"Big brother is really a shy person, huh"

"It would be better if Nadeshiko would be more embarrassed."

"Even I am embarrassed, you know. Because Big brother's actions always make me excited."

Each and every one of his words and actions made my heart race.

Ever since I fell in love with big brother, my world has been overflowing with happiness.

Chapter 9: Cuddling in Bliss

(SIDE : Yamato Nadeshiko)

That night was a sleepless night.

There are times when even after entering my futon and closing my eyes, I still cannot sleep.

".....big brother, it's me. Can we sleep together tonight?"

When I visited my big brother's room, he was also about to go to sleep.

"What's wrong, can't sleep?"

"Yes. Big brother, it's fine to occasionally sleep together, right?"

When I said so, he laughed and said "That part of you hasn't changed huh".

"It can't be helped."

Even while he's embarrassed, he wouldn't do something like push me away.

I'm always relying on my gentle big brother.

After we laid down, I could feel his body's warmth.

This warmth gave me a feeling of happiness and safety.

Even though it was not uncommon for us to sleep in the same futon like this, recently it has become rare.

"Big brother can feel my charm as the "opposite sex," right?"

"Guh. W-What are you saying all of a sudden?"

"Because, in the past we would often sleep together like this, didn't we? That you've refrained from doing so, is because you have been considering the possibility that you might indulge your passions towards me? It's all right, because I also desire to be assaulted by big brother. Now, please go ahead."

"..... if you say something too weird, I'll drive you out."

Big brother looked away from me in embarrassment.

"Please don't get angry. It was just a joke. I'll change the subject but..... big brother, do you remember?"

"Each and every time, how you push me into the sea of suffering with your words, right?"

"Please rest assured, this time it is a story of a wonderful memory with big brother. It is about when big brother and I saw a shooting star from this room."

"How many years ago was that? It feels like a considerably old story."

As big brother says, this was an old memory that must be revisited.

"I was still an elementary school student. If I'm not mistaken, I should have been around nine years old?"

"You remember it well."

"Yes. The memories with big brother are always within this heart of mine."

While placing my hand on my own chest, I reminisced.

I won't forget.

A memory that I don't want to forget.

When we were looking up at the ceiling while lying in the futon together,

"Even if I look up at the stars in this city, they are not that pretty. However, that day, no matter where I looked, I could see shooting stars, or it would probably be better to say that it was a meteor shower, with big brother and big sister Miyabi, like this the three of us were looking up at the shooting stars."

"..... So there was also such a thing."

"In the cool summer evening, we three siblings who got along well were wrapped up in the futon as we did watched the stars. It was a large-scale meteor shower which would come once in a few decades. On that day, I prayed for a wish to the countless number of shooting stars I saw."

The beauty of a shooting star which I saw for the first time was unforgettable.

To that evening sky, I made a certain wish.

".....that big brother may love me."

"Do elementary schoolers talk of love?"

"They do. It was a love from a time when I was small. I am a thoroughly a brocon."

"I think that's not something to be said while smiling though"

Big brother said "It's like Nadeshiko to say that" and smiled.

"Ara, you're making fun of me? Big brother, it's not funny, you know. Because, big brother is also a siscon. Don't you remember? That day, when I was making my wish..... wasn't big brother also making a wish like I was?"

"..... it was too long ago so I don't remember."

"Fufu. There are times in big brother's case where you put on a pretense of not remembering out of embarrassment. However, big brother, I remember perfectly. No matter how trivial it may be, I have not forgotten any memories with big brother."

While feeling big brother's body temperature intimately with my bare skin, I whispered to him.

"Big brother asked the star for a favor, 『That I may marry Nadeshiko.』 That's why, I asked that. 『Even if I don't ask star-sama, I will still properly become big brother's bride.』 Don't you think that this is a wonderful brother-and-sisterly love?"

"T-That's a fabrication!!"

"No. You're wrong. If you doubt this me, please try asking our big sister. Big sister is older than us, so she should still remember it. 『You guys are brother and sister, okay? Do you understand?』 she admonished while also amazed at the very young us."

"..... if that's true, then even I can't say anything."

He who was grieving and moaning showed me his back and wouldn't turn around to face me.

"From then on, my dream to marry big brother has always continued to be in my mind."

"My overly earnest little sister's love is heavy."

"——In this world, I am confident that the most virtuous thing is just “love”, you know, big brother?"

"But it's not something to get so serious about! Your words trouble me."

Big brother quietly patted and flattened my hair.

"..... even now, will big brother still say those words to me?"

"I won't"

"I see. The words of an oath should only be said at a wedding ceremony. Big brother's deep affection, I have received it."

"Wrong!! Nadeshiko is really positive, huh."

Big brother said that, and I nodded as,

"It's natural. The most important thing in life is to live happily."

"..... is that how it is?"

"Big brother told me once before.『Because Nadeshiko's smile is the cutest in the world, I always want to see it beside you.』In accordance with big brother's words, I have always been smiling next to big brother."

"Nuuoooo. Past me, I beg of you, please don't torture me any more than this. Stop, stop it..... gahh"

He who suffered from his own remarks, seemed to faint in agony from embarrassment in the futon.

The old big brother was a person more honest with himself than now.

"Big brother is necessary in my life, so please don't abandon me, okay? If you do something like betraying me..... you understand, right? Please don't make me say it out loud."

"I'm beyond frightened that what you plan on doing is something I cannot imagine!"

If I am betrayed, I won't forgive him.

However, big brother is not a person who would betray me.

I believe that.

"Big brother has always loved only me, I believe you will continue to look only at me. You're not a person who would betray his little sister's trust."

"Because trust is an important thing to keep."

"Yes. For example, even if big brother intended on becoming popular at the start of school, if truths and lies continue to mix and spread as rumors, big brother's position will fall to ruin. I won't allow any consideration of betrayal or the like."

His arm which I was going to use as a pillow jerked in reaction when I touched it.

"I will not allow it."

"W-Why did you say it twice?"

"Because it is important."

When I smiled and said so, big brother murmured "I'll be careful" deplorably.

"But, I think it is bad to lie."

"Let me teach big brother a splendid method to lie. It is fine if we mix in a bit of the truth with the lie. When the little bit of truth gets mixed in, other people will no longer be able to see through which parts are true and which parts are lies. That is the way, big brother."

"M-my cute little sister is somehow dark now! I don't want to see a dark Nadeshiko!"

While I snuggle into his body,

"For example, with just one photo I am able to cast big brother into ruin."

"..... with just one photo?"

"Mhmm. Even if it were a picture from when I was a child, if it were to be placed inside big brother's student handbook, big brother would be given disgraceful titles like "Lolicon" and "Siscon," and society would regard you with cold gazes, right?"

"Seriously don't do it!! My life would end that way!"

"Kusu kusu. It's easy to do something to big brother's life, you know. Please remember and give up, okay?"

Big brother said to me "This is a joke right?" while smiling at me.

His face didn't look gloomy at all, even though he should not have been able to smile.

"..... That was a joke. If I were doing this for real, I would even place a picture of me playing in the bath when I was a child. If you were caught red-handed and thus arrested, it could not be helped, right? If I also acted as a victim and appealed for help from the people nearby, it would definitely be the end for you."

"To have a reliable plan for ending my life in mind, this little sister of mine..... I won't betray Nadeshiko. So please don't take away my life."

Even his begging didn't lift my mood, so he gave me his arm to use as my pillow.

"I sure am loved by big brother."

"Of course I love you, as my younger sister."

Like that I became cheerful and let him spoil me.

With big brother's arm pillow, it feels like I'll see a good dream. Good night, big brother.

Because I was finally starting to be hit by waves of sleepiness, I fall asleep without resistance.

"Good night."

"That's right, big brother, there is one more thing I forgot to say."

I quietly whisper into big brother's ear with all my love.

"After I have fallen asleep, it's fine no matter what kind of mischief you do to me, you know. I give you my permission."

"I won't do such a thing. Please don't test your older brother's sense of reason."

"..... it makes my heart race to imagine what kind of mischief my shy big brother will do to me. It really seems like I'll be shown a good dream today."

Even though I was also teasing him, I also dreamed that he would really mess with me in reality.

Big brother isn't the type of person to do that, however.

Although I trust him, it was also quite regrettable.

While snuggling up to big brother, I slept comfortably for the first time in a while.

At the moment I fell asleep, what I heard in my ear was,

"——Nadeshiko. Though if it's in the dream world, I can love you without

holding back."

Was that my convenient dream that I saw?

Or, were those really the words that big brother murmured?

I, who had already fallen asleep, didn't know.

As I slept pleasantly that night next to the person I love, I was able to see a good dream.

Please don't say that in a dream world or whatever.

Even though it's fine if you gave me your love in the real world.

I wish that the day big brother responds to my love would come quickly.

However, an event that would wound the heart of such a love-struck little sister was coming— —

Chapter 10: Rival in Love

(SIDE : Yamato Nadeshiko)

If I were to speak honestly, big brother is considerably popular with the girls.

Even from a young age, there would be lots of girls around him.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that I was battling every day of my life.

Because any other girls who loved big brother was an enemy, I continued fighting against them all the time.

After school, even though I went to the classroom to meet big brother, he wasn't there.

"Ah, it's Nadeshiko-chan. Did you come to meet your older brother?"

"Hello Ono-san, Satake-san. Do you know where my big brother went?"

"Takeru-kun? He's on duty today, right now I'm sure he should be delivering the printouts to the teacher."

This girl was Ono Megumi, big brother's friend and Satake-san's lover.

These two have been his friends since middle school, so I am also acquainted with them.

"It should be okay if you just wait a little bit?"

"I think he'll come along soon."

"That reminds me, I wanted to hear about it earlier, but big brother still continues to not have a lover or anything similar, right?"

When I questioned them, Ono-san went "Lover?" and made a mystified face.

"Though it's doubtful whether he has a lover, there is a girl he has a particularly close relationship with, right?"

The inside of the classroom was wrapped up in a tense atmosphere.

"R-right now, did a 'piki' sound just sound in the atmosphere?!" 1

"..... It must be your imagination."

"I-It's fine if it's just my imagination. Y-Yeah....."

Ono-san murmurs in a tear-choked voice.

While desperately resisting the unpleasant feelings that have erupted from inside my chest,

"And who would be this other party?"

A murky black emotion swirled around inside me.

The name of this feeling is 'jealousy'.

"E-Eh, that is..... you see, Nadeshiko-chan"

Probably because I was unconsciously showing a dark expression, Ono-san's face was cramping up.

"It's a girl who was also our classmate last year——"

Satake-san covered up Ono-san's mouth, who was going to say something.

"Meg, one of your bad points is that you're talkative without thinking."

"S-sorry. Never mind about just now. Takeru-kun doesn't have a girlfriend or anything. I'm telling the truth here."

Because it seemed like they were trying to cover up something, I tried pursuing further.

"Are you sure? Even if you lie, it's not going to be good for Ono-san, you know?"

"I-It's really true! I-I don't know anything. U-uu....."

While I stare at her, Ono-san turns her gaze towards Satake-san next to her with a pleading look for help.

"..... Please don't make such a face. This is Yamato, you know? That fellow doesn't have a girlfriend or anything. No matter how many it has been so far, the girls with lover-like atmospheres, it has not progressed to the level of lovers."

"Big Brother is a wonderful person, so he is naturally popular: the kind person anyone would fall in love with. That's why, if he were to make a lover or something..... one way or another that would end up being a problem for me."

"I'm scared of what you plan on doing, Nadeshiko-chan! You really love your older brother, huh."

"I love big brother so much that I lose sight of myself from time to time."

In the face of love, sometimes there are situations where my normal self-control is snatched away.

Even I don't know what mess I will make when I am fired up with the flames of jealousy.

"For your beloved older brother to be popular sure is troublesome for you."

"That is because big brother is not allowed to associate with other women except me. Big Brother and I are siblings tied by a bond of love."

Ono-san mutters "Though I think that's a bond that must not be consummated".

There are few people who are sympathetic to the love between big brother and I.

"It's understandable for girls to fall in love, since it is the case that big brother will sometimes nonchalantly say romantic lines to girls without noticing. The people of his class should undoubtedly have experience in this already."

When I queried the surrounding people, "I might also have experience with that" consenting voices sounded from here and there.

".....Yamato-kun is certainly the type to nonchalantly say things that normal people wouldn't say, right?"

"There might have been a few times where I was surprised by his actions, and became attracted to him."

"He's kind, and cool, and has a high rating amongst the girls. Though it feels like it sharply fell now."

I see, it looks like even here there were several girls who were charmed by him.

Since that is the case, it would be better to crush those irksome feelings here right now.

"Big Brother is the type to nonchalantly make advances, even if the other person is his little sister. Even I have had my heart played with many times."

".....By the way, what kind of things did he say?"

When Ono-san asked me like that, I answered with a bright smile,

"——the key to Nadeshiko's heart is mine, so you cannot make a duplicate key for anyone else besides me, okay?"

"If he really said t-that, Takeru-kun is definitely a siscon."

Ono-san was creeped out and drew back.

His classmates were also lamenting "No way—, absolutely no way!"²

"——Today I also saw a happy dream again. In my dream, a cute Nadeshiko appeared."

"Stop it, Yamato-kun's cool appearance is collapsing so stop it!"

"——I cannot "like" Nadeshiko more than this, because there is "love" instead!"

"Please don't cry out for love or anything..... I already have goosebumps, so please forgive me, Yamato-kun!"

"——I like Nadeshiko's voice so much, each time you speak my heart won't stop racing."

"O-ouch, it's so corny it hurts. But, if it's Yamato-kun, I kind of want to see him say that."

These were all lines that big brother had said to me before, and even now he

still says such things to me from time to time.

"Wait, did Takeru-kun always refer to himself as “boku”?"

"Until junior high, it was “boku”. After entering high school, for some reason, he switched to using “ore” to refer to himself, which doesn’t suit him."3

After talking about big brother for a while, his classmates’ impressions of him seemed to have fallen to rock bottom.

"Haa..... Yamato-kun was quite a poet."

"He was more painful than a chuunibyou otaku boy. Even if he’s a good-looking guy, there are things that are unpermittable, right?"4

"No way~ To have had a crush on such a person, even I’ve become disgusted with myself right now."

I look and confirm that various girls seem to be shocked and troubled.

It looks like I have succeeded in wrecking many a sweet maiden’s heart.

With this, any women who were interested in big brother in this class should disappear.

While I recover the calm in my heart,

"Big Brother is just a romanticist."

"To be able to completely accept that, Nadeshiko-chan might be really great."

"That's natural, for I love big brother from the bottom of my heart."

"To be loved by such a cute little sister, Yamato sure must be happy."

While such a conversation was going on, Ono-san asked me in a low voice.

"U-umm, Nadeshiko-chan, I didn't hear it firsthand, but there is a rumor that Takeru-kun enters the bath together with you everyday. Is that true? That's just a joke, right?"

The story from the other day seems like it became a rumor, and since everyone seemed deeply interested, I spoke the truth.

"It's the truth. Starting from since I was a child, I have been taking baths with big brother every day. It is my daily routine to have big brother's wash my hair."

"S-Seriously? Eh?!"

"Moreover, we also sleep together, you know. If I don't have big brother's arm pillow, I can't fall asleep. We also slept together last night, and I was able to have a good dream."

My cheeks redden as I murmured, pregnant with heavy implications.

"Though it might not seem that way, big brother behaves splendidly spoiled when it is just the two of us, you know. It is very cute. To be relied upon by an older man sure makes your heart skip a beat, right?"

"..... for that Takeru-kun to act spoiled around Nadeshiko-chan? I can't even imagine it."

It's not a lie, just a bit of an exaggeration.

The truth seems to have been cruel for big brother's position, as it became rather noisy inside the classroom.

"For that to have been serious..... Yamato Takeru. It's decided that he's a genuine siscon."

"Eh? That's not anywhere near a siscon, right? Normally that would be at the level of a crime, you know."

"To have used the feelings of love of such a pure little sister to do such things in the shadows..... how terrible."

"I feel bitter about the things that were said today. Yamato-kun is the lowest."

While big brother's classmates were unanimously in the middle of muttering disappointment,

"——Oh? If it isn't Nadeshiko. Did you come to the classroom?"

Was it good timing? Bad timing?

Big brother Takeru who didn't know anything had come back to the classroom.

"Big Brother, welcome back."

"Nn. I seem to have kept you waiting.....? Huh? For some reason, I seem to be getting a lot of attention?"

When big brother looked around, all of his classmates' gazes were turned towards him.

".....eh? U-Um, did I do something?"

"Takeru-kun. In this class, it's impossible for you to have peaceful school life anymore."

pon pon, Ono-san softly pats him on the shoulder.

"Ono-chan, why are you looking at me with those eyes? I don't understand the reason for the full-powered icy glares directed at me. Satake, what's going on?"

".....I think it's better if you don't know. Yamato, if I could say one thing, in this class, your evaluation is rock bottom. I can only say that your time is over now."

"Why, what do you mean? W-Wait please, everyone. Please don't look at me with those kinds of eyes. No please, I didn't do anything, you know?"

Nobody said anything as they silently stared at big brother.

"..... I'm begging you, at least tell me the reason. I can't bear those cold gazes as if you're all looking at a dangerous person. Just what in the world did I do?"

"....."

Big Brother who was crestfallen and perplexedly dropped his shoulders gave off the appearance of being burdened with grievous sorrow.

From that day forth, Big Brother it seems like came to be called by his nickname, "Love Poet Yamato."

However, outside of my hopes, it seemed like the girls who were disappointed in him were only a few.

"If it's Takeru, those kinds of lines might happen to me too."

"Even if they're painful lines, I'd like to try having that whispered in my ear at least once."

Or something like that, he seemed to have become popular with girls who wanted to try having sugary lines said to them.

My strategy was a failure..... when I became a high school student, it doesn't seem like it will go smoothly.

Big Brother's popularity with women was still in good health, and it was regrettable that my enemies seem to have increased.

As a side effect, the number of boys who regarded big brother with hostility seemed to have doubled instead.

"Yamato Takeru, I won't forgive any shameless behavior towards Nadeshiko-chan who is popular despite being a freshman."

"On top of being good-looking, to have a beautiful little sister is just impermissible, but to constantly be using his position as an older brother in terrible ways, I cannot overlook this!"

It seems like the outcome was big brother getting cursed by the other boys, I reflected a little over this.

Even so, I was still worried about what Ono-san had said.

『Though it's doubtful whether he has a lover, there is a girl he has a particularly close relationship with, right?』

That big brother has a special girl..... who is it?

1.sfx for sparking or glass breaking.

2.Nai wa~

3.boku is slightly more neutral than ore, which is more masculine. Both are ways to say "I"

4.chuunibyou = 2nd-year middle school syndrome, imaginary sickness that one has special powers, turns into some... interesting behaviors. Otaku is a die-hard fan of something, but popular usage has it used for anime-related goods.

Chapter 11: The Black-Haired Beauty

【SIDE: Yamato Takeru】

I was exhausted to the point where I was unable to remember what was today's dinner.

When I returned to the classroom after my day duties, I was stared at by my classmates with very cold gazes.

『Yamato-kun is the lowest. A person who has gone off the path.』

『Serves you right, Yamato. Your time is already over.』

『.....I-I still believe in you, okay? Yamato-san isn't that kind of person.』

My classmates whispered such things, but for what reason I had no idea.

.....Nadeshiko, while I was gone, what did you do?

The female students were especially bad.

They wouldn't even meet my eyes.

It was basically considerably shocking to me.

After dinner, while I was exhausted and sprawled out on top of the sofa,

"Big brother, that's no good. When you lie down, you have to lie like this."

Nadeshiko gently sat down on the sofa, and placed my head on her lap.

Indeed, this was a situation where I was receiving a lap pillow. My little

sister's lap pillow was soft and pleasant.

".....It's good right, this way."

"If big brother comes to desire it, I'll do it for you anytime."

My damaged heart is being healed.

Without the energy to say anything to Nadeshiko today, I accepted it.

"That was especially tiring. Nadeshiko, what did you do today after school?"

"I didn't do anything, though? I only talked with Ono-san and the others for a short while."

If it was nothing, then I want you to explain the stares of disappointment and disgust directed at me by the girls.

"Rather than that, big brother, I also have a question. During this last year, was there a situation where you created a special relationship with a lover? Or was there a female student you liked in particular?"

".....haa?"

What are you saying all of a sudden, Nadeshiko?

When I look at her with a blank expression,

"Well? Please answer only with the truth to this question."

"Hii?!"

Nadeshiko's slender fingers had softly touched the base of my neck, and even now the tips of her nails were digging in.

".....P-Please wait! I have never gone out with anyone, not even once, really!"

I was restless in a situation where even though I want to run away, I could not.

Why was I suddenly driven into a such a critical situation, I wonder?

"Is that really true? It's not good to lie. Telling lies is disgraceful behavior. It's stupid, but it's common for people who are trying to run away to place themselves and their self-protection first to use this pitiful last resort. This world isn't kind enough to let liars live leisurely."

When she said that with a straight face, it was scary, and I felt like I wanted to cry.

The Nadeshiko today seems merciless, so I was desperate to pacify her.

"It's true. There's no such thing like me socializing with a girl. Please don't dig your fingernail into my neck."

"I understand. I'll believe in big brother's words."

".....Hoo"

I was relieved when my little sister gently released her hold.

"However, if that was a lie, please prepare yourself. I love you big brother, but it makes me sad to be told a lie. If a time comes when I am betrayed..... even I cannot imagine what kind of things I would do."

That isn't something to be said while smiling?!

Her smile made me feel like my heart had frozen.

Though the lap pillow was comfortable, I was in trouble because I couldn't run away.

Why did you suddenly ask such a thing?

Though I wanted to try asking, it seemed like it would be kicking a hornet's nest, so I stayed quiet.

"It's about time, shall we go take a bath? I have already prepared it."

I wonder why girls like these kinds of things?

Urged by my sister, we decided to take a bath together.

I soaked in the warm bath and refreshed my mind and body.

There is the smell of the rose-scented bath salts that is Nadeshiko's favorite lately.

A guy like me doesn't really understand the charm, but Nadeshiko seems to be deeply satisfied.

"Were you able to make new friends after entering high school?"

"About that, I was able to make some. By the way, they all have boyfriends."

".....ha? Is Nadeshiko's criteria for friends on whether or not they have boyfriends?"

"No, it is whether or not they are interested in big brother. A friend who would make eyes at my beloved big brother is not a friend."

Eh, a terrible remark just casually came out.

"It's a story from a while ago, but there was a girl in junior high school who became my friend to aim for big brother. It's all because big brother has been popular with girls for a long time. Even when choosing friends, ascertaining girls with ulterior motives is troublesome too, you know."

"Erm.....what happened to that girl?"

I had an unpleasant feeling and tried asking Nadeshiko.

"Asking what happened, it's as if you're assuming that I did something to her..... though that's right, however."

"As I thought, you did something."

"Fufu, it's not something that big brother needs to worry about."

That girl is safe, right?

What really happened? The meaning behind her smile weighed heavily on my mind.

That girl is safe, right?

"It's just a trifling story. Now, big brother, please wash my hair."

If this girl's personality's one point, if I had to say a bad point, I would probably say this point.

Her likes and dislikes are separated too clearly. Especially enemies, she'll immediately make enemies and not give a care.

No, in the cases where she's making enemies, I'm often involved though.....

Mom, dad, older sister Miyabi..... where did we make a mistake in Nadeshiko's upbringing?

In a normal scenario, in accordance with the name Yamato Nadeshiko, even though she should have been a cute girl.

If someone somehow becomes treated as an "enemy," receiving her hostility all the time would be scary.

I'm worried that such a little sister might one day incur someone's ill will and get hurt.

"Big brother, please wash it quickly. I feel a chill after a bath."

.....the world looks coldly down on this, mixed bathing between siblings.

No, even if I make excuses or such to myself, I've become accustomed to this.

There's not even a sense of a crime, so there isn't an indecent meaning at all.

It's a lifestyle habit, just one of my daily sceneries..... though even if I say so, nobody would be convinced.

"Nadeshiko has really beautiful black hair. You should be proud of it."

"Because I want to match with big brother's preferences, I want to become a beauty with raven-black hair."

I use shampoo to foam up her hair.

The appearance of an older brother washing his little sister's hair is reflected in the mirror.

It's a scene which hasn't changed from the past. No, we both have grown up, so it has changed?

Though the actions have not changed, our appearances in the mirror have grown up.

"It's about time for our bathing together....."

To stop, or when I tried to say that, Nadeshiko immediately interjected,

"That's a line that will hurt your cute little sister's heart. Are you still going to say it?"

".....it's nothing."

I was caught by a pick-off throw.

The subsequent words were "Is the sad event where you betray me going to happen?"

In addition, with the rumors spreading at school, being gazed at by icy glares was painful.

I already don't have a place where I belong at school anymore, so please stop it.

"I won't do such behaviors that would make my cute little sister sad."

"Of course, I expected as much, because I have great trust in big brother."

I rinse off Nadeshiko's hair with warm water from the shower.

"Nnn. Big brother's skill is on the level of a professional beautician, it's wonderful."

"..... That's because I'm accustomed to it."

The days where Nadeshiko will demand for a shower has become almost a daily occurrence.

I don't want to count, but it should have exceeded thousands of times.

..... it's a heart-throbbing daily life with my little sister who is growing every day..

"Please also let me wash big brother's hair from time to time."

My little sister was warming her body as she soaked in the bathtub.

In the meantime, I was washing my hair myself.

"I-It's fine, Nadeshiko can enjoy the bath."

".....I'll give you some service, you know?"

Because there is that, so I declined!

When I have her wash my hair and body..... she will push against various places on purpose.

Though other people, if it's seen, may say it's enviable, let me say beforehand that I also have a lot of sense, so to be honest it is a huge problem.

"If my partner was a lover, it'd would be okay, but it's my little sister."

"Big brother, may I take that as a confession of love, to say that you want to become lovers with me right now?! I'm happy that you yearned so much for me♪"

"T-That's not it! Please settle down!"

Her flexible limbs appeared and disappeared from the gap of the towel.
It took quite a bit of time to restrain Nadeshiko who had gotten excited.

A cold drink after taking a bath is delicious.

After leaving the bath, I was completely exhausted and tired.

I really felt like it was better for me to stop taking baths with Nadeshiko already.

My reasoning and mental condition won't last long, in various meanings.

After I finished drying Nadeshiko's hair, I leisurely poured a cup of cola from a plastic bottle and drank.

"It's a pity that Nadeshiko is bad with carbonated drinks."

"If it's lightly carbonated, I can still endure it, but a normal level of carbonation is impossible for me. The prickling feeling in my throat is unpleasant. However, I can drink soft drinks if it's opened and left it out for the carbonic acid to escape?"

"That's just sugared water. That seems bad for your body, so stop that."

There's nothing as sickeningly sweet as flat soda.

"However, I'll do my best. I want to drink the same thing big brother is drinking. Please give me a sip."

"Here. The carbonation is intense though, so be careful."

My favorite is zero calorie cola, but the carbonation is strong.

She resolved herself and took only a mouthful into her mouth, but immediately "geho" coughed and covered her mouth.

With just a little bit, her eyes became teary, as she endured the prickling in her throat.

"Uuu..... b-big brother, please drink beverages that are more gentle for me."

"Yes, yes. I'll take more care next time, to pick something that I can drink with Nadeshiko, okay?"

Nadeshiko nodded and drew close to me again.

I spent the rest of the quiet evening carefreely like that with my cute little sister.

Chapter 12: The Rumored Partner is...

【SIDE: Yamato Nadeshiko】

It's the new class which I hadn't completely gotten familiar with.

It seems like it's going to take a bit of time to get used to this atmosphere.

"Hey, did you see that girl Hanasaki from the class next door? She seems considerably high level."

"I saw, I saw. That was a beautiful girl. Nadeshiko-chan is also formidable, but that girl is good too."

"It seems like they say her name is written like a girl in love, 'Kotome.'¹ In accordance with her name, she's a lovely girl, you know!"

The boys in the class were swapping rumors about a girl in the neighboring class.

Apparently, she seemed to be a very popular child.

"Kotome-san..... seems more like a grandmother's name. Fufu."

Excuse me for being impolite, I laughed involuntarily.

Mine is also the same, but people's names nowadays are interesting.

"It is a simple rumor, but because of that, searching for the truth will be much harder."

Speaking of rumors, there's also a rumor that I'm worried about.

Even while I'm sitting in my own classroom, there are things I was thinking about.

"That big brother has a girl he is particularly intimate with, was that really true?"

Upon hearing such a rumor, I had begun to investigate this enemy.

"I wonder just what kind of person it will be?"

Either way, if I ask the person in question directly, he will evade the question. It will be no good unless I gather hard evidence and thrust it into his face.

"Now then, shall I try searching for the rumored person?"

During the lunch break, I began gathering information while walking around inside the school.

Fortunately, I had a few upper classmate acquaintances at this school.

By chance, after asking several seniors, one girl's name came out.

"Yamato-kun's lover? Speaking of that, there was that rumor I heard."

"Do you know who it is?"

The rumors about big brother seem to be true.

"When I saw it before, that lover-like person seemed get along together like a married couple. Wasn't that girl Sudou-san, I wonder?"

"Sudou-san? What's her name?"

"Sudou Awayuki. She is a rather famous ojou-sama at this school, a girl liked by everyone, you know. There was a time when there were rumors about her, but I haven't heard many rumors about her recently."

Sudou Awayuki, I don't have any impressions of that name.

Is this person I'm not acquainted with and big brother..... were they going out?

"Do you know which class Sudou-san is in?"

"Eh? That girl is in the same class as Yamato-kun, you know. It should have been that way last year too."

Since she was right under my nose, I might have already met her.

I immediately decide to go visit big brother's classroom and see.

However, neither big brother nor Ono-san are there.

Though I tried asking a guy who was nearby, but,

"Nadeshiko-chan, it's a shame, but that guy Yamato isn't here? He hasn't

come back to the classroom."

Though I glanced around inside the classroom, I couldn't find a person resembling the one from the rumors.

It was then that the surrounding boys started to mutter some complaints.

"That's right, everyone. I just thought of a good idea. Isn't this a good chance to show the actual Yamato to Nadeshiko-chan?"

"Fu. That's a good one, let's drop him into hell. I have a grudge against him anyway."

".....I also concur. Let's bring down that riajuu Yamato Takeru here. I'll do anything for that goal."

They turned around towards me and started telling me various things.

"It's a good opportunity, so I'll tell Nadeshiko-chan about Yamato's exploits."

"What is it?"

"That fellow already had a lover around this time last year, you know?"

I listened to their story with an extremely calm air.

".....eh, is that the case? This is the first time I've heard about this though?"

"Because not everyone seems to know about this. However, it's the truth that he has a suspicious relationship with her. That's a relationship where they're going out, for sure!"

"That's right! At that time, all the girls who wanted to become Yamato Takeru's lover all fell into depression."

"..... it seems like it might be credible. Would you let me hear more about it?"

As I thought, big brother seems to have been developing a close relationship with someone since last year.

"The other person in the rumor is Sudou Awayuki. When I say Sudou-san, do you know?"

"Only to the degree that I've heard of the name. What kind of person is she?"

According to what they said, the Sudou family is a well-known rich family which oversees the management of many companies.

An honest-to-truth ojou-sama, and a person who seems to be extremely popular in school.

"Like at lunchtime, if Nadeshiko-chan right now had a meal together with us, it would seem like we had a close relationship, you know!"

"To be able to go out with such a beautiful person, that bastard Yamato. Even I want to be born as a good-looking man too!"

"At that time, even when I asked 『Are you two going out?』, neither of them actually denied it though."

"They had this mood like lovers around them. However, did their relationship spontaneously end roughly around the start of winter, or did something happen? Because both of them started to put some distance between each other, so didn't they break up then?"

"That's because of how Yamato's popularity exploded around Valentine's Day. Even now, I still remember how the stares of all the single girls I knew changed at that time."

Though this is at the level of rumors, all the information together still indicated that the relationship between big brother and Sudou-san was a special one.

Did they only go out from early summer till winter? Or does it seem like they have an even closer relationship?

"..... I see. Big brother has been having this kind of relationship behind my back, hmm?"

"I wonder, isn't Sudou-san also being deceived and toyed with by Yamato? Since at any rate, that fellow is popular with women. Some of it is due to my jealousy, but Yamato is too nice when it comes to girls, you know? That's fine in it of itself, but how would it be for a girl?"

I agree with that, as it's big brother's bad habit that I want him to correct.

Because of his gentle character, he spreads goodwill to everyone.

It's a frequent occurrence for that to be misunderstood and for feelings of

love to develop.

Big brother is attractive, so there are too many girls who will create excessive misunderstandings.

With a bitter laugh at my feelings, I let out a sigh.

"I also wish that big brother would self-reflect on his actions as well."

That way, while that guy is minding his actions, nobody would try to go out with him.

Big brother resembles a devilish kind of girl, where while he's unaware, seldom would he do something really terrible.

If he doesn't have the intention, I wish he wouldn't be nice from the beginning.

It's not my intention either as the little sister to increase the number of grieving girls.

"Though there is no possibility of big brother going out with any other girl besides me, it is pitiful to let them keep dreaming."

"Eh? For that reason?"

"Are any other reasons necessary? Big brother is mine."

In response to my dignified remark, everyone fell into a dumbfounded silence.

From the beginning, when I also tried asking the girls' opinions towards Sudou-san just in case,

"Ah, Sudou-san huh? Is it right to call her a healing-type? The atmosphere around her is different from an ordinary person's, you know?"

"The atmosphere?"

"That's right. Every person has a kind of atmosphere around them, right? That girl is kind on the inside, kind of like a super gentle person. She has this very kind atmosphere around her."

"I've never heard of anyone speaking bad about her, hmm. She doesn't have that arrogant high-class young lady feeling or appearance at all. I don't think there's anyone who dislikes her?"

Her appearance is beautiful and gentle, and a good personality too.

Was there really such an ideal and perfect beauty? I honestly doubt it.

"... Speaking of which, she is a bit similar to Yamato-kun."

"What do you mean?"

"The atmosphere they have. It's just my opinion, but Sudou-san resembles him."

"I totally understand. The atmosphere between those two is very similar."

"The atmospheres are similar, is it?"

The atmosphere which shows what the person is like on the inside.

If Sudou-san has such a gentle atmosphere that anyone would come to like her, like big brother's, then as a love rival, she's an especially troublesome existence.

"I think Nadeshiko-san will surely also understand after meeting Sudou-san."

"Are they that similar?"

"Yes. Are people with the same or similar atmospheres attracted to each other, I wonder? Those two definitely fit each other."

My inner heart had extremely mixed feelings about this.

From a bystander's point of view, to say that they suit each other...

After a while, big brother finally comes back.

"— I have been waiting for you, big brother."

Big brother, while going "Eh?" in surprise,

"What, so you came. I had to step out of the classroom for a bit. Sorry about that."

"No, please don't mind me."

While I grasped his hand tightly as if to catch him,

"Big brother, I think you already know, but lying is a bad thing that you absolutely shouldn't do. Just lying is a sin. I believe that big brother is not a liar, or to say, a person who will secretly carry a crime."

"...eh? A-Ah. I don't really get it, but I want to continue responding to Nadeshiko's trust."

"Which is why, supposing if there was something to betray my trust, I hope you're prepared. I'm not the type to easily forgive and forget, you know?"

I reminded him as I strongly clasped his hand.

"—if there is, I won't forget, not even a little bit."

Big brother murmured "Y-Yes." while staring off at somewhere in the distance.

The feelings of jealousy which had arose in my heart began to burn hotter and hotter.

Since the first bell had rung, I was walking down the hallway as I returned to my classroom.

In front of me, an unfamiliar girl with light tea-colored hair was walking towards me.

As we were passing each other, a gentle smile appeared on the girl's face as she said,

"Hello."

I think that a person who can greet others even if they are strangers is wonderful.

I returned the greeting, and right when I was going to part with that senior—

"—?!"

The feeling I felt from her, was an atmosphere just like big brother's.

『She's a person with an atmosphere similar to Yamato-kun's, so I think you'll understand immediately.』

I understood the meaning of what I heard earlier in an instant.

Even if it's not visible to the eye, I can feel the atmosphere.

"Rather than similar, isn't it exactly like big brother? That person just now, was she Sudou-san?"

Even without asking her name, I already knew.

A person with a kind atmosphere just like big brother, a gentle person and a seemingly excellent girl.

For that kind of beauty to be next to big brother, and to have a special relationship...

"Sudou Awayuki... the next "rival in love" might be a considerably formidable opponent."

While carrying a sudden sense of crisis, I had stopped in the hallway and

continued staring at her retreating figure.

1.Maiden in Love = Koisuru Otome, Her name = KO + Otome = Kotome